THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

8

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

Kadokawa Comics A

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Yen Press

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Something very, very strange is going on . . . because nothing strange is going on . . . Overnight the SOS Brigade, the existence of supernatural beings, and Haruhi Suzumiya's obsession with finding them (not to mention Haruhi herself!) have disappeared. Has the goddess lost her touch? And why is Kyon, who so often longed for a normal life, so upset to find the SOS Brigade suddenly gone?

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OLDER TEEN OT LSV

Yen Press

UM... HE MUST HAVE THE WRONG PERSON ...
HARUHI SUZU-MIYA?
THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON IN THIS CLASS.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
...STRANGE THINGS CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE SICK.

THE MELANCHOLY of
HARUHI SUZUMIYA
ORIGINAL STORY
NAGARU TANIGAWA
MANGA
GAKU TSUGANO
8
CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOIZI ITO

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A LONG, LONG DECEMBER EIGHTEENTH CAME TO AN END.
I WAS STILL WONDERING IF IT WAS ALL A HOAX.
THE NINETEENTH... MY LEGS FELT HEAVY AS I HEADED TO SCHOOL, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
I NEEDED TO CHECK SOME-THING...

EVEN TANIGUCHI WAS ABSENT, AND...

CLASS 1-5 HAD MORE ABSENTEES TODAY.

STARTING THAT DAY, CLASSES WOULD BE SHORTENED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

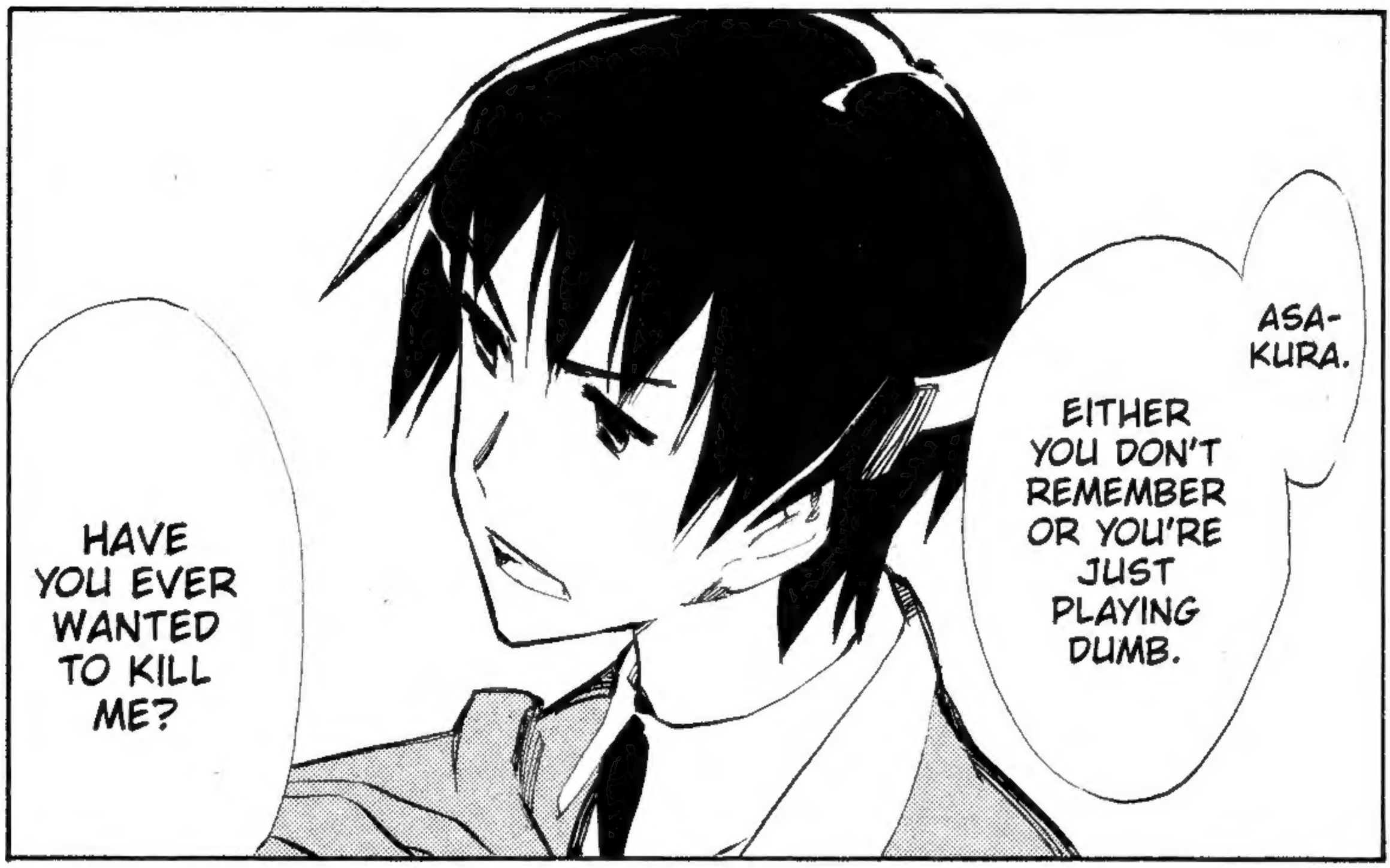
GOOD MORN-ING.

ARE YOU AWAKE TODAY?

YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE WHAT YOUR EYES ARE SEEING.

BUT YOUR EYES BEING OPEN DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT YOU'RE AWAKE.

...MORE OR LESS.


HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO KILL ME?
ASA-KURA.
EITHER YOU DON'T REMEMBER OR YOU'RE JUST PLAYING DUMB.

YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT?
...SIGH.
YOU SHOULD CHECK YOURSELF INTO A HOSPITAL SOON.

SHE WAS GIVING ME THE SORT OF LOOK YOU GIVE SICK PEOPLE...
...GUESS I HAVEN'T WOKEN UP FROM THE NIGHTMARE YET.
SCHOOL'S OVER... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
PI (FLICK)
TA (TAP)

THE APPLICATION FORM NAGATO GAVE ME YESTERDAY ...

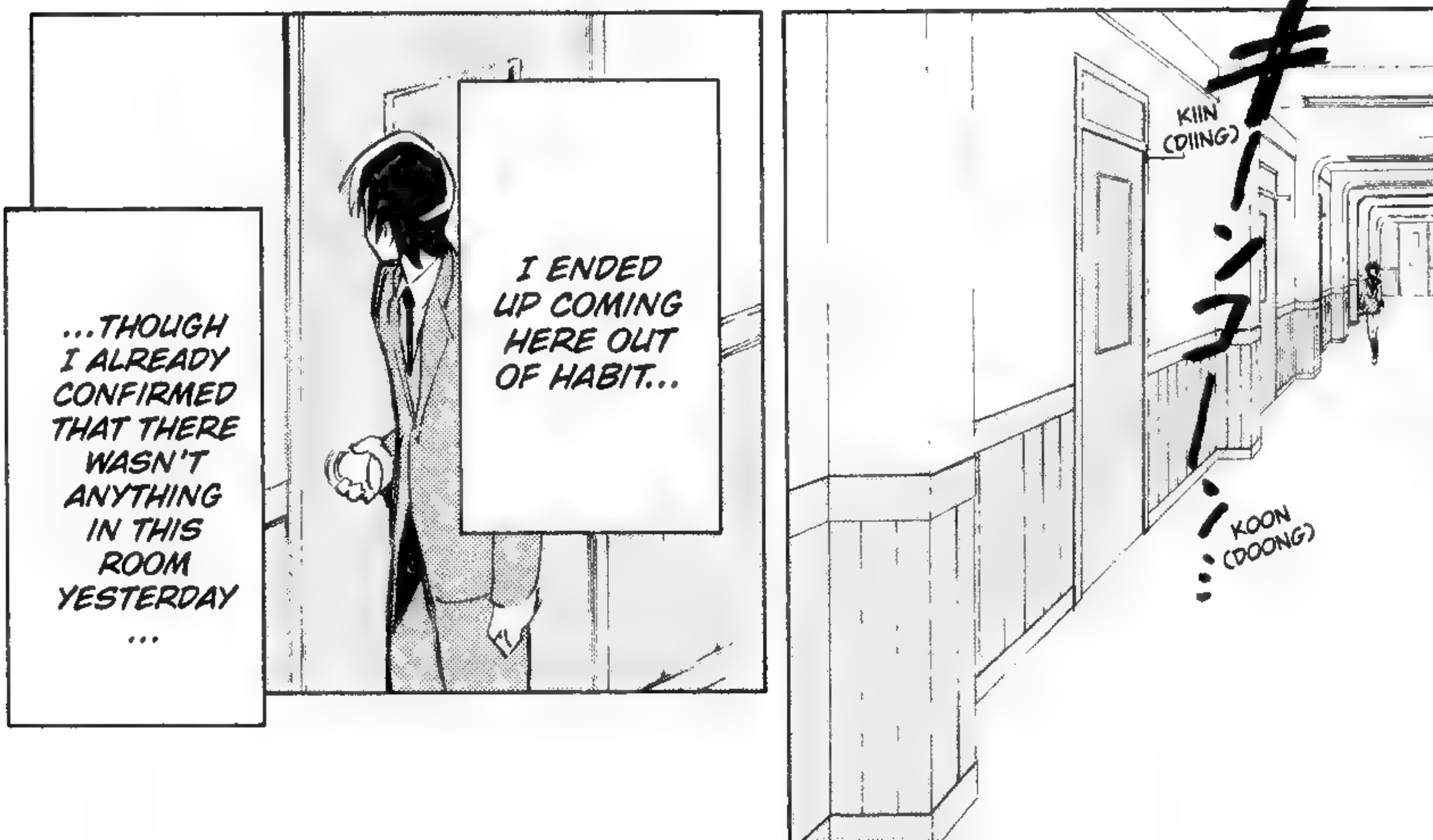
WAS THIS MEANT AS AN INVITATION? WHY INVITE ME?

THE NAGATO IN THIS WORLD DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE EITHER...

PAPER: AGREEMENT TO JOIN, NAME, COMMENTS

MY CHEST HURTS.

WILL I EVER ENJOY HER TEA AGAIN?



KOKUN (NOD)
.....
WAS IT OKAY FOR ME TO COME BACK?
GII (CREAK)
ARE THESE BOOKS ALL YOURS?
...SOME WERE HERE BEFORE I JOINED.
I ONLY READ.
UH... AH.
DO YOU ...
...EVER WRITE YOUR OWN STORIES?

WHAT WOULD SHE WRITE?
SCIENCE FICTION, I SUPPOSE... SHE WOULDN'T WRITE ROMANCE, WOULD SHE?
HER EYES DARTED TOWARD THE COMPUTER FOR A MOMENT.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE WAY SHE ACTED BEFORE SHE LET ME USE THE COMPUTER.
?
...THIS BRINGS BACK MEM-ORIES.
WELL ...

THE FOREIGN SF NOVEL NAGATO LENT ME WAY BACK WHEN.

A FAMILIAR TITLE.

HA HA ...

TOOK ME A WHILE TO FINISH IT...FEELS LIKE IT WAS YEARS AGO.

TOO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.

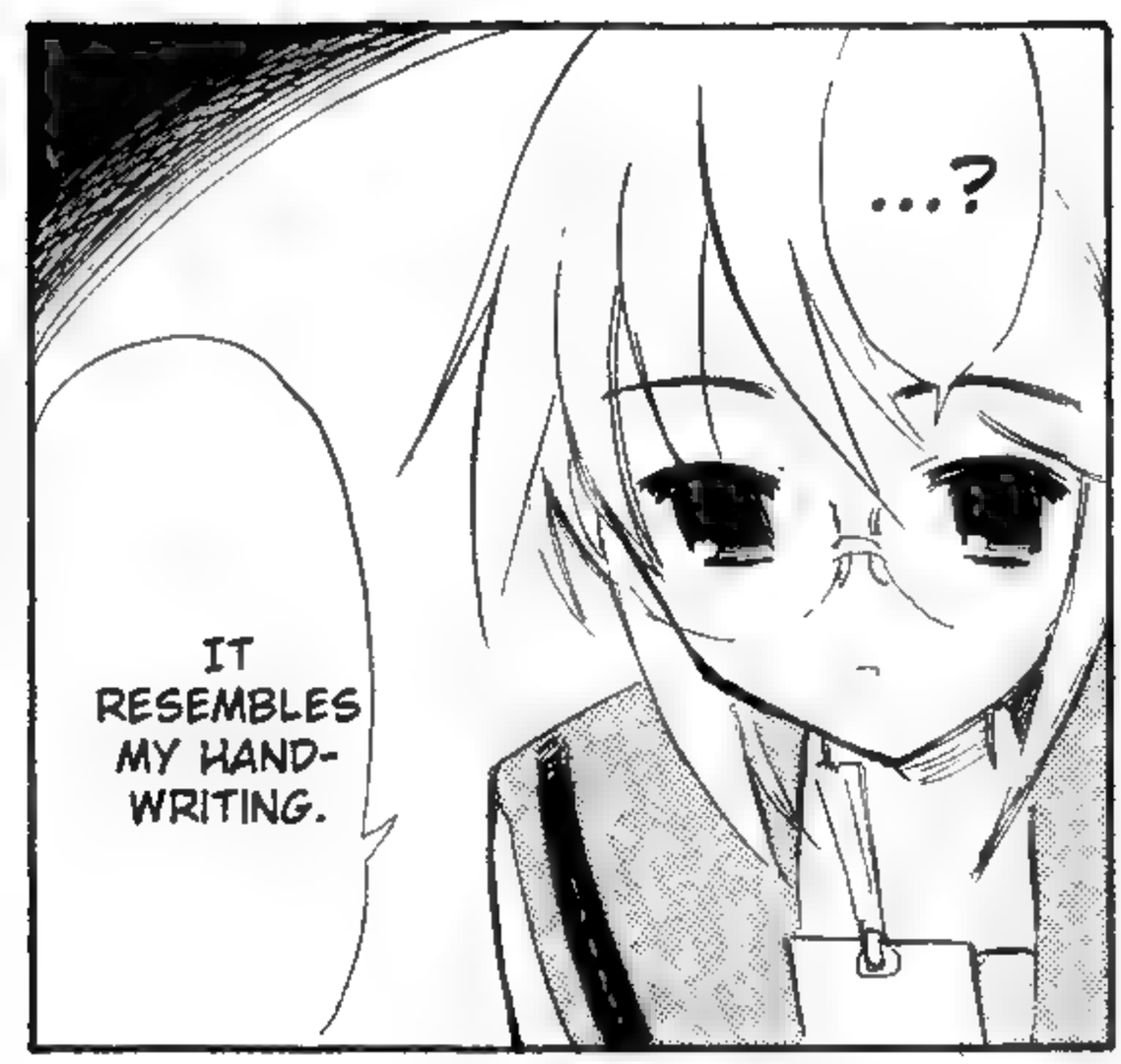
?

HIURI (FLUTTER)

...BACK THEN...
IT FELT LIKE THE WORLD WAS SPINNING AROUND ME.
...A BOOKMARK.
"SEVEN P.M. I'LL BE WAITING IN THE PARK ACROSS FROM KOUYOU PARK STATION."
AND ON THE BACK WAS...
PA (FLICK)
I OPENED THIS BOOK IN MY ROOM AND FOUND A SIMILAR BOOK-MARK.

プログラム起動条件・鍵をそろえよ。
最終期限・二日後

BOOKMARK: PROGRAM EXECUTE CONDITION—ASSEMBLE THE KEYS. FINAL DEADLINE—TWO DAYS.


...?
IT RESEMBLES MY HAND-WRITING.

...WERE YOU THE ONE WHO WROTE THIS?

I DON'T REMEMBER WRITING THIS... WHAT IS IT?
BUT... I DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

?
NAGATO ...
...I WAS JUST A LITTLE CURIOUS.
YEAH, IT'S OKAY ...

...I SEE.

YOU DID LEAVE A MESSAGE BEHIND...!
IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THIS IS A PRESENT FROM YOU, RIGHT...!?
I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER TO SEE SUCH AN IMPASSIVE MESSAGE.
Program execute condition – Assemble the keys.
Final deadline – Two days...

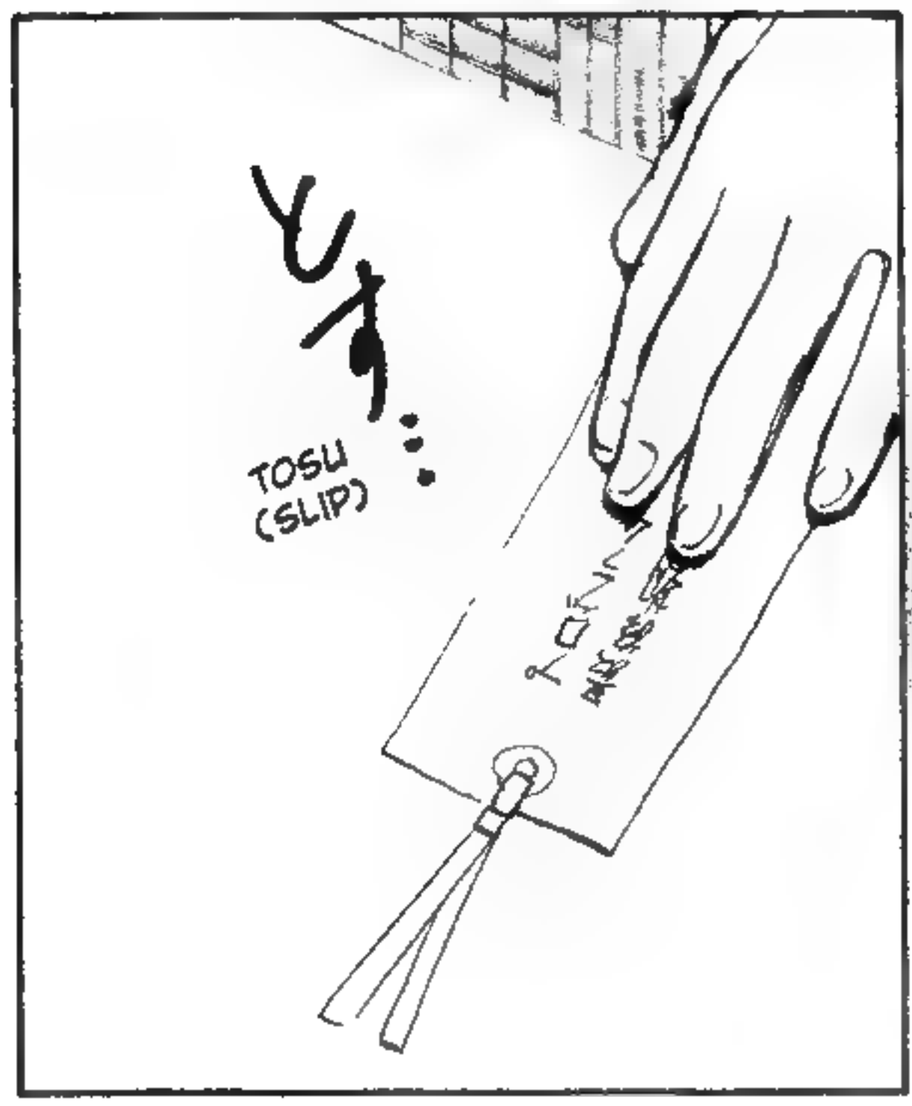
TODAY'S THE NINETEENTH.

IF I COUNTED FROM TODAY... WAIT.

IS IT FROM YESTER-DAY!?

WORST-CASE SCENARIO... THE DEADLINE WOULD BE TOMORROW!?

...TWO DAYS!?



A FLURRY OF QUESTION MARKS SPUN ABOVE MY HEAD...

THE MOMENT OF JOYOUS SURPRISE WAS WEARING OFF.

BA (BAM)

BASA (WHAP)

UM...

PROGRAM? KEYS?

WHAT KEYS!?

BASA

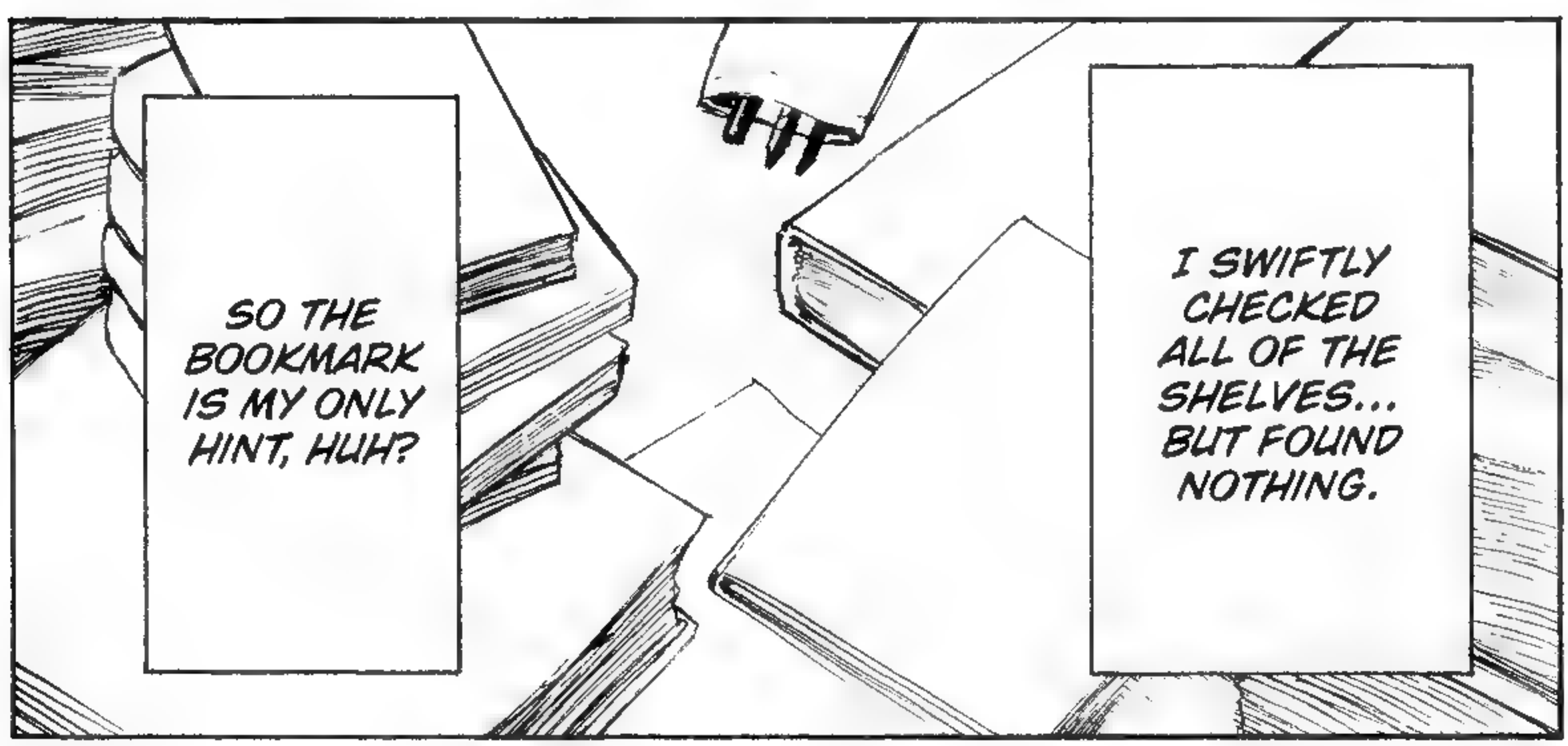
BASA

WOULD EXECUTING THIS PROGRAM RETURN THE WORLD TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE?

WHERE? ARE THERE ANY OTHER HINTS?

BASA (FWAP)
GUESS THE REAL NAGATO IS STILL SUCCINCT.

NAH, IT'S NOTHING... JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.
?


SO THE BOOKMARK IS MY ONLY HINT, HUH?
I SWIFTLY CHECKED ALL OF THE SHELVES... BUT FOUND NOTHING.

I SPENT ANOTHER TWO HOURS THINKING WITHOUT ARRIVING AT AN ANSWER.

BESIDES, "KEY" IS A REALLY AMBIGUOUS TERM.

I DOUBT SHE'S REFERRING TO THE KIND OF KEY THAT'S USED IN LOCKS.

...HMM.

KEY PERSON? KEYWORD?

DAMN, I HAVE NO IDEA...

チラ
CHIRA (GLANCE)
.....
...THIS NAGATO RARELY MOVES.
...IS SHE SHY OR SOME-THING?
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PURPOSELY STARE AT HER...
PARA (FLIP)

KAAA (BLUSH)

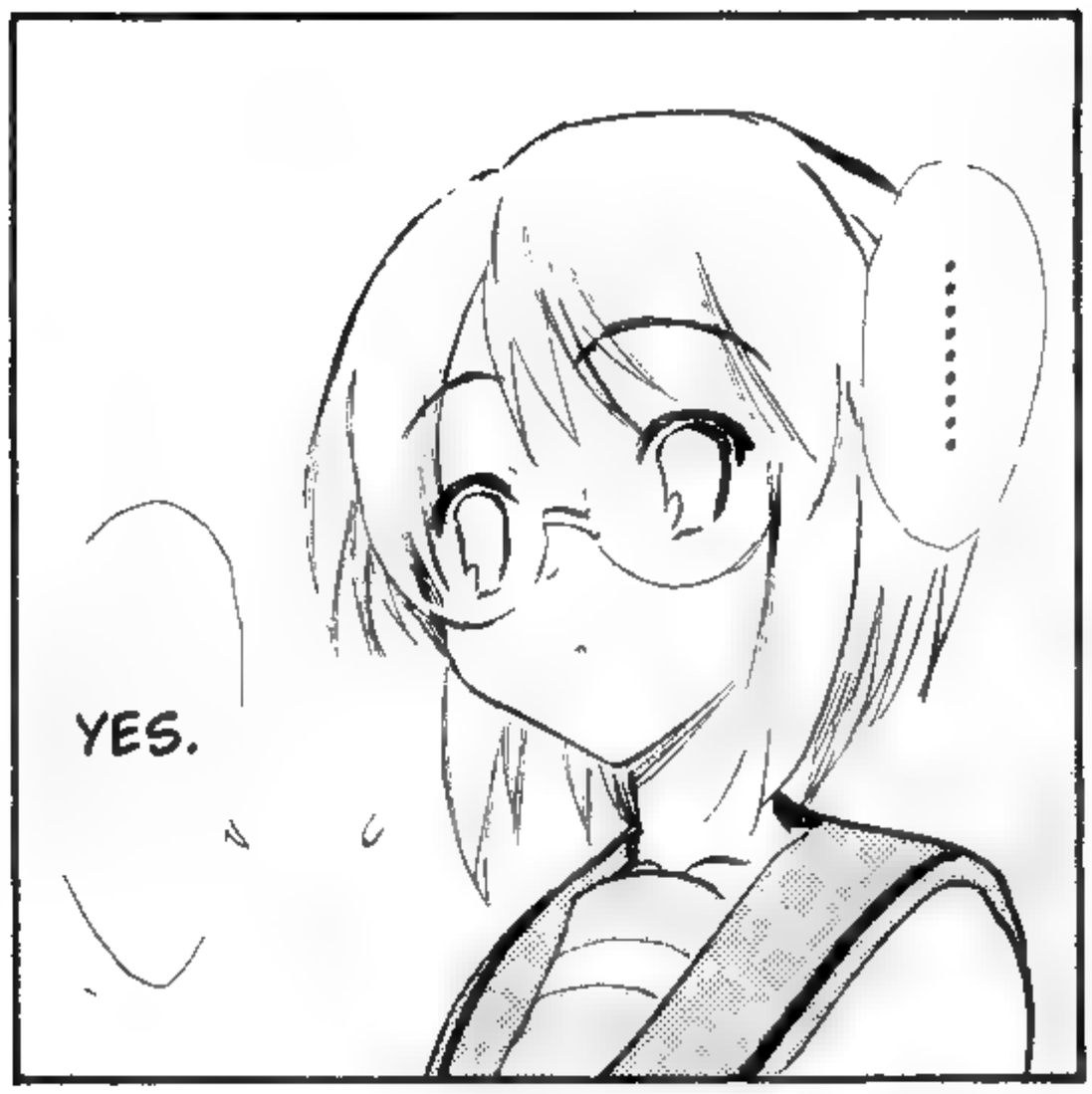
HER FACE IS GETTING REDDER.

THIS IS REFRESHING.

TO BE HONEST, I FIND THIS NAGATO TO BE FAIRLY—NO...

...INCREDIBLY CUTE.

ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK THAT THIS WORLD ISN'T TOO BAD.


.....
YES.

SAY, NAGA-TO.
YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?

Flavor
CATFooD
!?
YOU GET THE FEELING THAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING SOMETIMES...
HOW ABOUT GETTING A CAT?
SHE'S PROBABLY WONDERING HOW I KNEW THAT.

NO PETS ALLOWED.
CATS ARE GREAT.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE A TALKING CAT.

I COULD JUST JOIN THE LITERARY CLUB AND STAY IN THIS WORLD...

...

THERE'S A TEMPTING THOUGHT.

HA-HA-HA... TALKING WITH THIS NAGATO ISN'T TOO BAD.

YES..

YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT?

BAN (SLAM)

HEY...

TA (DASH)

...FOR REAL...?

OR IS THIS WHAT AN AVERAGE GIRL IN HER FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL IS LIKE?

THIS NAGATO SEEMS TO BE MENTALLY UNSTABLE.

IS SHE SHY? A COWARD? AGGRESSIVE?

NAGATO'S ROOM...THE HIGH-RISE APARTMENT BUILDING, HUH?
THE NEXT VISIT CAME ON TANABATA THREE YEARS AGO.
MY FIRST VISIT WAS SEVEN MONTHS AGO.
THE SECOND VISIT ACTUALLY CAME BEFORE THE FIRST ONE CHRONO-LOGICALLY.
GUSHA (CRUSH)

THE EXISTENCE OF THIS BOOKMARK MEANT THAT THE OTHER NAGATO STILL HAD BUSINESS WITH ME.

OF COURSE I WENT. I COULDN'T GIVE UP YET.

THE SAME WENT FOR HARUHI, ASAHINA-SAN, AND KOIZUMI...!

I FELT THE SAME WAY.

HERE.

CHA (CLICK)

KO (CLICK)

TO (CLACK)

.....

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I NEED TO CHECK FIRST.

MIND IF I LOOK INSIDE THIS ROOM?

NO CHANGE IN THE LAYOUT...

GUESS I COULDN'T KEEP TRAVELING THROUGH TIME...

...IS VACANT.

THE ROOM WHERE ASAHINA-SAN AND I SLEPT FOR THREE YEARS...

カラカラ

KARARA (RATTLE)

I HAVE MET YOU BEFORE.

YOU HELPED ME GET A LIBRARY CARD.

WH-WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

WHAT?

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY?

YOU MEAN ...?

...A CARD.

AT THE LIBRARY?

IT WAS APPARENTLY BACK IN MAY.

NAGATO'S FIRST VISIT TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

SHE WANTED TO ASK A LIBRARIAN, BUT THEY WERE ALL BUSY.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET A LIBRARY CARD.

SHE WAS AT A COMPLETE LOSS WHEN—

HER RESERVED DISPOSITION ONLY COMPOUNDED THE PROBLEM.

A MALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FELT BAD AND HANDLED THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE FOR HER.

THAT WAS YOU.

zu (SIP) zu zu

.....

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?

I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK NAGATO TO THE LIBRARY.

OUR MEMORIES OF THE INCIDENT WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLE TO SAY THAT I REMEMBERED ...

AH... .....

NAGATO SEEMED UNSURE ABOUT HOW TO REACT TO MY SILENCE.
HER FINGERS WERE TREMBLING EVER SO SLIGHTLY.

A VISITOR?
GI (SQUEAK)
HOLD ON.

PIN (DING)
POON (DOONG)

KOTO (CLACK)
...NAGATO'S MEMORY WASN'T WRONG.
THERE WERE JUST A FEW DISCREP-ANCIES.

A VISITOR FOR NAGATO, HUH...

AND GIVEN THE SITUATION, THOSE DISCREPANCIES ARE THE REAL PROBLEM...

WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

NAGATO... WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?

... BUT ...

NOW IS NOT ...

... HOLD ON.

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK YOU...

...I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE MISSING NAGATO LATER.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DON'T TELL ME YOU FORCED YOUR WAY INSIDE?

THIS COULD BE MORE TROUBLE THAN DEALING WITH HARUHI...

FIRST, I NEED TO DEAL WITH THE BIZARRE SITUATION I'M IN.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IV : END

EAT BEFORE IT GETS COLD.
MAYBE I MADE TOO MUCH.

I BRING FOOD TO NAGATO-SAN FROM TIME TO TIME.
WAIT, YOU MADE THIS?
YUP.

...SOMEBODY EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION TO ME.
IF YOU LEAVE HER ALONE, SHE'LL BARELY EAT ANYTHING.

UH...

I WAS HERE AT NAGATO'S INVITATION ...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHY SHE'D INVITED ME.

TOUGH TO SAY.

SO?

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I WAS HOPING FOR A CLUE ABOUT THE KEYS...

...BUT I CERTAINLY CAN'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD.

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT IT AND HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD...

OH, RIGHT.

I'M CONSIDERING JOINING THE LITERARY CLUB.

RYOKO ASA-KURA ...

BITE ME.
SORRY, BUT YOU REALLY AREN'T THE TYPE.
YOU, JOIN THE LITERARY CLUB?

GATAN (CLATTER)
I ALSO BROUGHT MUSTARD.
...BUT I COULD SENSE HER CONFIDENCE AND POISE.
SHE WAS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC BEFORE...

I REMEMBERED SOMETHING I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.

I'M PRETTY MUCH RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE...

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T FEEL SURE ABOUT ANY-THING.

OH, YOU AREN'T GOING TO EAT?

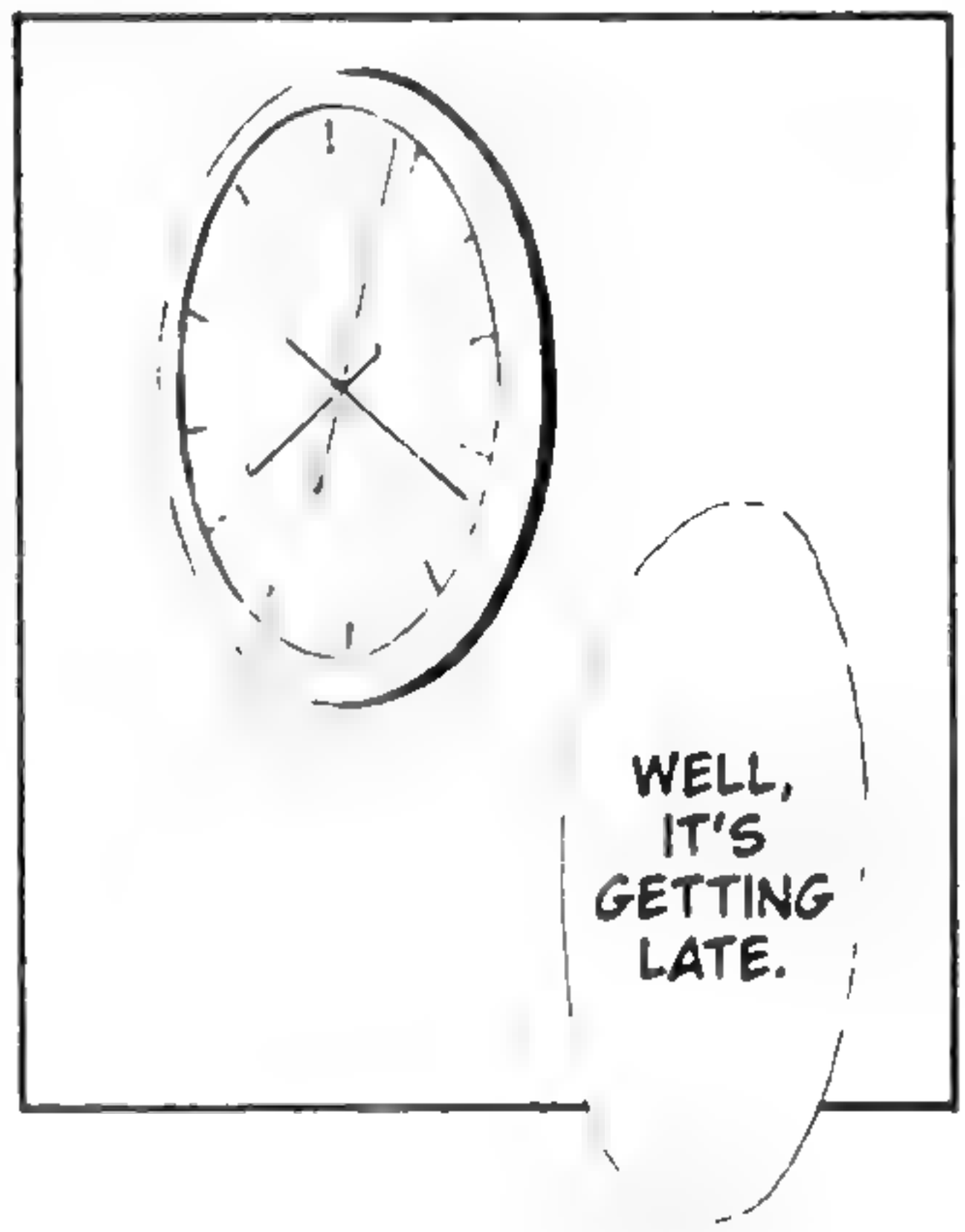
KYU (TUG)
HER TUG FELT AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER.
DID SHE WANT ME TO STAY BECAUSE BEING ALONE WITH ASAKURA IS TOO SUFFOCATING?

...I SEE.
MY BUSINESS HAS BEEN CANCELED.
EH, GUESS I'LL STAY AND EAT.
YEAH, I'M ABOUT TO STARVE TO DEATH.
I SENSED A TWINGE OF REGRET AS NAGATO WITHDREW HER FINGERS.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU'D NEVER SEE NAGATO EXPRESS HERSELF SO OVERTLY.

MY TASTE BUDS WANTED TO SCREAM IN JOY, BUT MY MIND WAS ELSEWHERE.

ASAKURA WAS THE ONLY ONE CHATTING CHEERILY, WHILE MY RESPONSES WERE VAGUE.

AFTER EATING FOR AN HOUR, MY SHOULDERS WERE COMPLETELY STIFF.

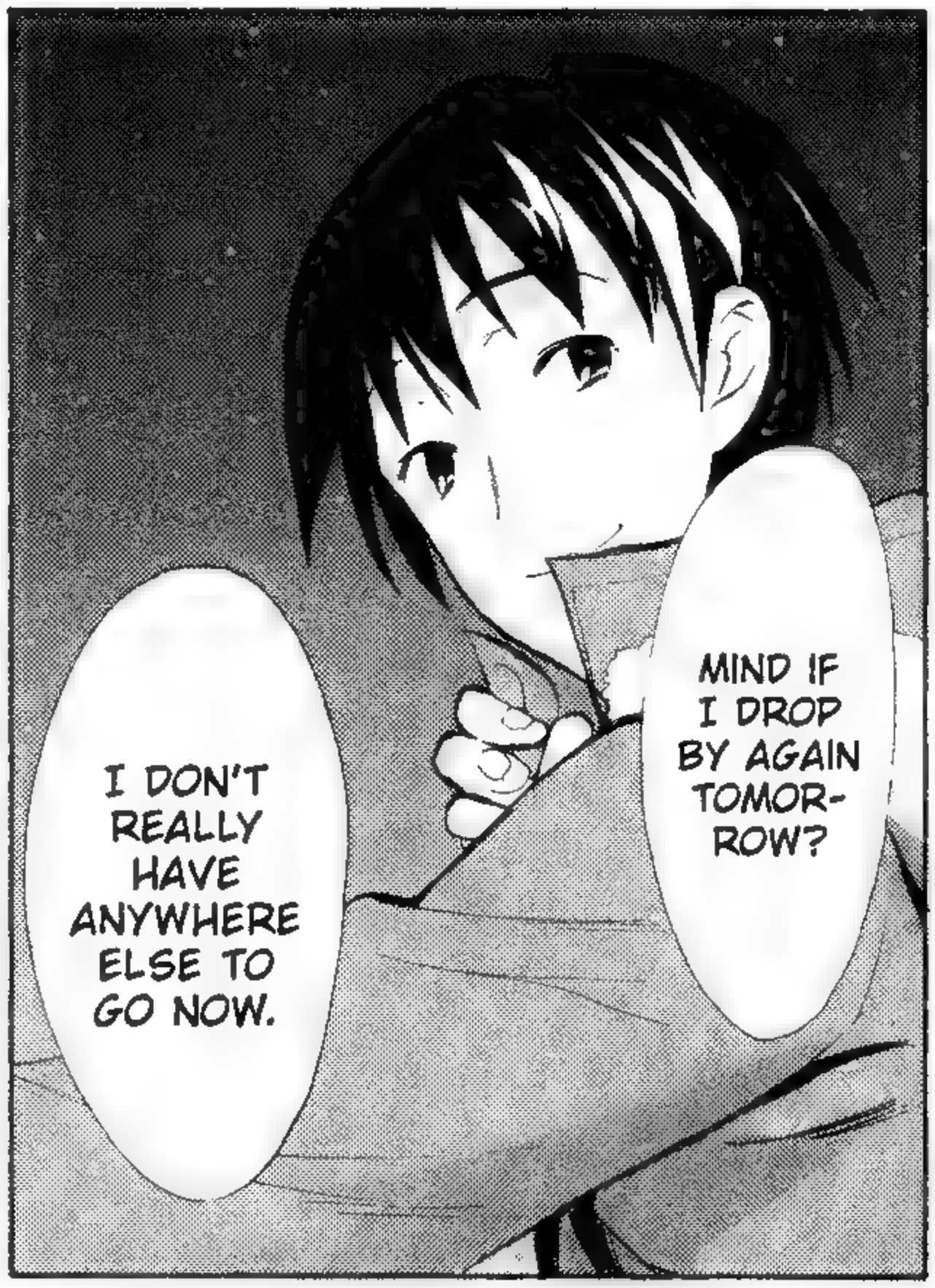


BY THE WAY.
AH... MMM.

LATER, THEN.
IT FEELS LIKE THE SHACKLES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

AH...

KOKUN (NOD)
コクン


MIND IF I DROP BY AGAIN TOMOR-ROW?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO NOW.

FUWA (LIGHT)
ARE YOU ATTRACTED TO NAGATO-SAN?

KO

OR ELSE I WON'T ALLOW IT.

SHE'S MORE SENSITIVE THAN SHE LOOKS...

KO (CLICK)

HUH?

IF YOU INTEND TO GO OUT WITH HER, YOU'D BETTER BE SERIOUS.

KO

KO

UH...

...THIS CONVER-SATION HAS TAKEN AN ODD TURN.

I MEAN, HOW COULD I HATE HER?

SHE EVEN SAVED ME FROM A CERTAIN PERSON'S DAGGER OF DEATH...

KO
CLICK
YOU PREFER WEIRD GIRLS.
WELL, I MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.

KO
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
KO
I HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR KUNIKIDA MENTION IT.
...WHAT THE HELL?

KO
...
NAGATO-SAN.

JUST IGNORE HIS BABBLING.
...THE BASTARD'S MAKING CRAP UP AGAIN.
KO

GOOOO
(WHRRR)
IT MAKES ME FEEL PROTECTIVE OF HER.
I ALWAYS START TO WORRY WHEN I LOOK AT HER.

WE LIVE IN THE SAME BUILDING, AFTER ALL.
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LEAVE HER ALONE.

TA
(TAP)
WELL, THIS IS MY FLOOR.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

OOO
(RRRR)
.....

IN THE OLD WORLD, ASAKURA HAD BEEN NAGATO'S BACKUP.

I CAN KINDA UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE CURRENT NAGATO.

BUT IN THE END, SHE WENT POSTAL AND HAD TO BE ELIMINATED.

I WANT TO GO TO BED ALREADY.

THE NINETEENTH IS COMING TO AN END WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF THE KEYS.

YOU'RE PROBABLY CAPABLE OF ENTERING OTHER PEOPLE'S DREAMS WITHOUT EVEN TRYING.

HOW ABOUT LISTENING TO ONE OF MY WISHES FOR A CHANGE?

YOU MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME WHETHER YOU'RE AROUND OR NOT...

...SO COULD YOU AT LEAST SHOW UP WHEN IT MATTERS?

HA HA ...

...I FELT A JOLT AS THE THOUGHT RAN THROUGH MY MIND.

I MISS HARUHI...
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
I HAD AN URGE TO SMACK MY HEAD AGAINST SOMETHING HARD.

CHI (TWEE)

CHI

CHI

CHUN (CHIRP)

チュン

I AWOKE FROM A DREAMLESS SLEEP, FEELING LIKE CRAP AS ALWAYS.

UGH ...

THE THIRD MORNING AFTER THE WORLD WENT INSANE...

DECEMBER TWENTIETH.

I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE KEYS.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.

NOPE.

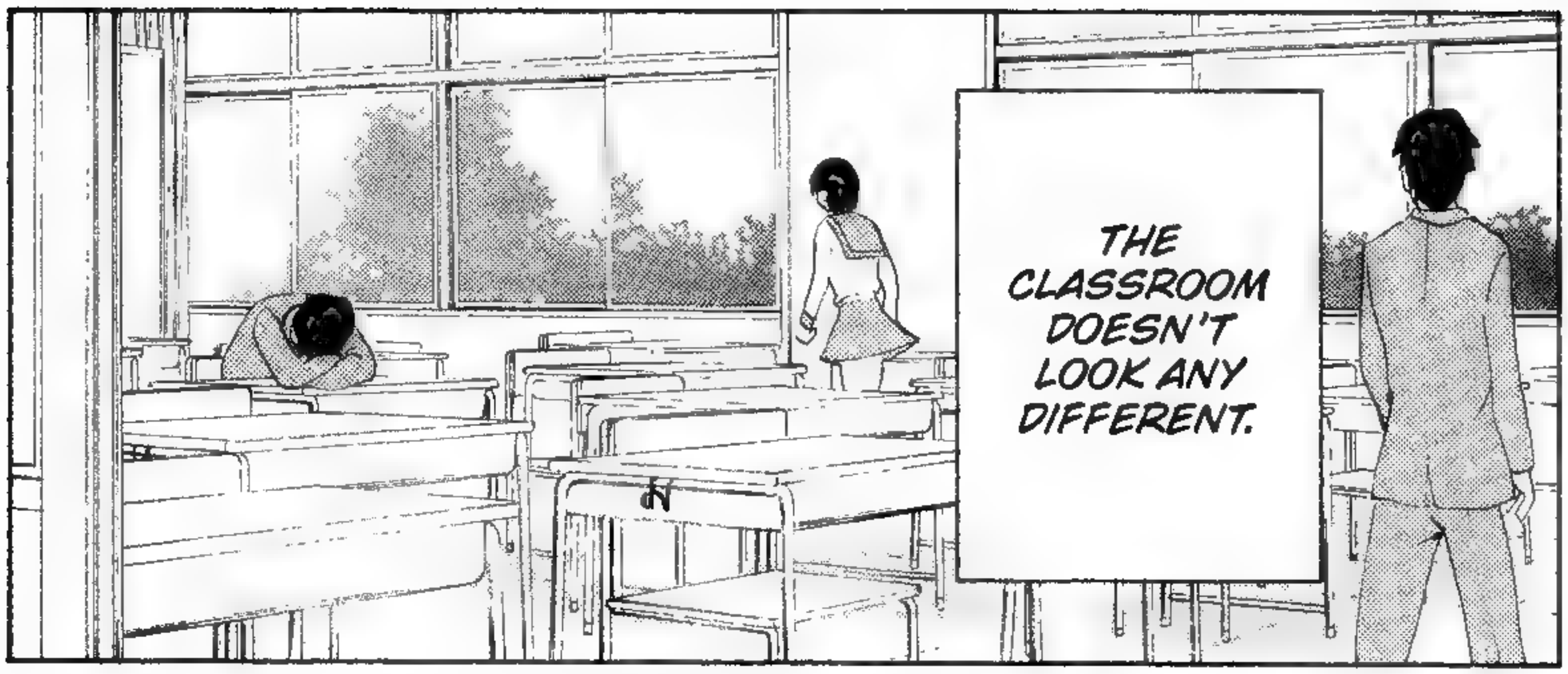
HEY, DID SHAMI SAY ANY-THING?

I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING TODAY OR THE WORLD WILL BE STUCK THIS WAY.

"PROGRAM EXECUTE CONDITION" ...

DEADLINE... WHY IS THERE A DEADLINE?

IS THE LIMITED TIME FRAME THE EXTENT OF NAGATO'S ABILITIES?


THE CLASSROOM DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT.

...THOUGH IT SEEMS THAT TANIGUCHI IS BACK.
SEVERAL STUDENTS ARE ABSENT AGAIN...

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
TIME IS SLIPPING AWAY.
GOOD MORN-ING.

BLEH...I'M STARTING TO SOUND SKEPTICAL.

WAS THE SOS BRIGADE A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION?

DON'T TELL ME... IT WAS ALL A DREAM?

OH, THIS PROBLEM.

IT'S EASY. YOU SEE...

HEY, SCIENCE IS UP NEXT.

HELP ME OUT.

OH, YEAH. I HEARD FROM KUNIKIDA.

YOU MADE A LOT OF NOISE TWO DAYS AGO, HUH?

WE RARELY GET A CHANCE TO SEE YOU YELLING AND SCREAMING.

I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE.

DAMN KUNIKIDA... FIRST ASAKURA, NOW TANIGUCHI.

HE KEEPS SPREADING PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.

CURSE YOU, KUNIKIDA...

?

YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT ASAKURA REPLACING SOMEONE ELSE.

THAT REMINDS ME.

FASCI-NATING.

HEE HEE HEE!

SHUT UP, DAMN IT!

WELL? DID YOU FIND THAT PERSON?

HARUHI-SAN, WAS IT?

COULD YOU DROP IT ALREADY?

I'M JUMPING OUT OF HABIT EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT NAME.

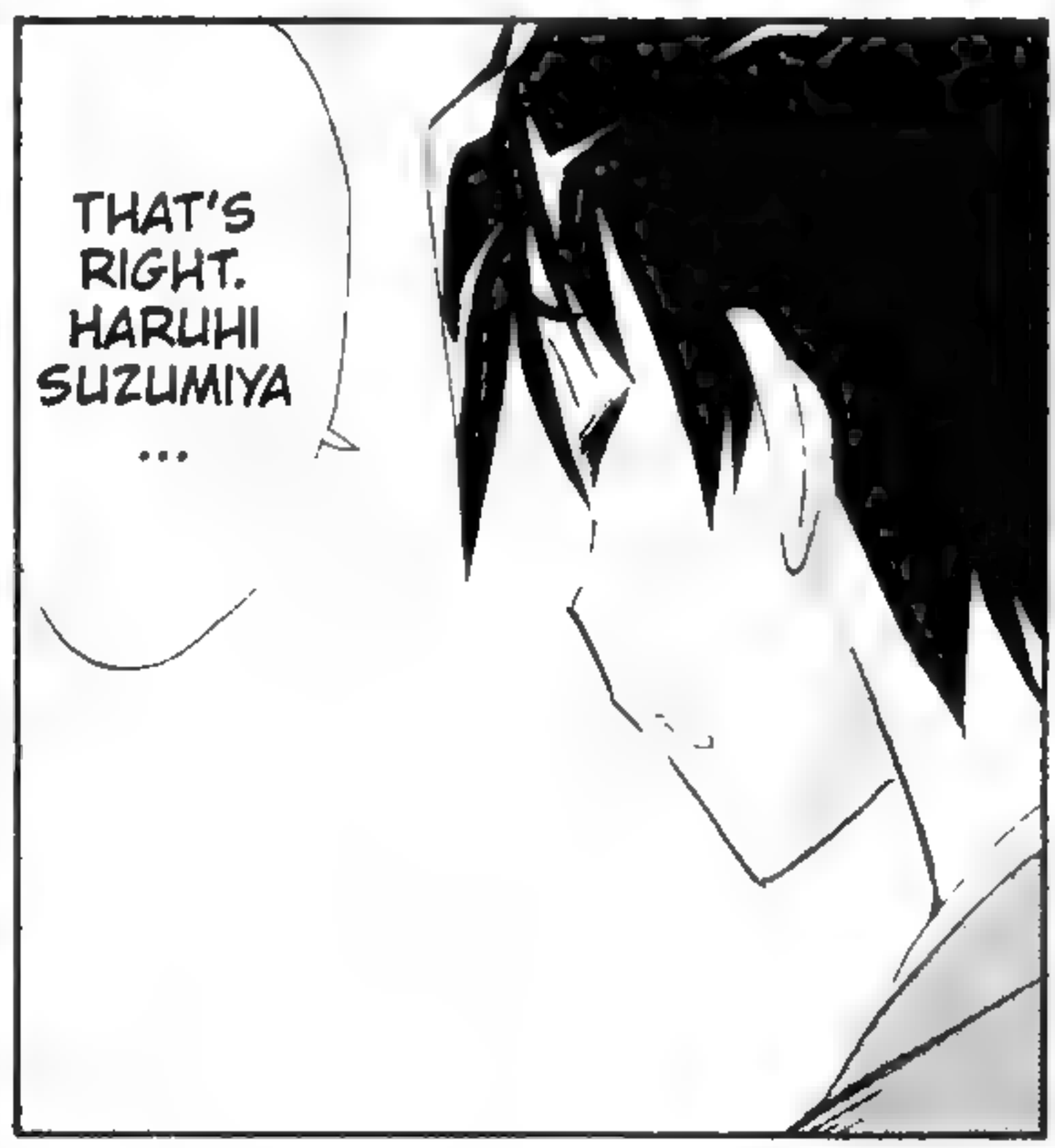
HARU-HI?

SERI-OUSLY?

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

THE ONE AND ONLY HARUHI!

THIS WOULDN'T BY SOME CHANCE BE *HARUHI SUZUMIYA*, WOULD IT?



SO HOW DO YOU KNOW HER, KYON?
I WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AS HER ALL THREE YEARS...HEH, I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW.
OH, REALLY ...
GA (GRAB)
THE PSYCHO GIRL FROM EAST MIDDLE.
I SAID SUZU-MIYA, Y'KNOW?
WHERE IS SHE RIGHT NOW?
YOU KNOW HARUHI!?

OF COURSE I KNOW HER. EVERYBODY WHO WENT TO EAST MIDDLE KNOWS HER.
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU? CALM DOWN...
KOUYOUEN ACADEMY!?
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE WENT TO KOUYOUEN ACADEMY.
ISN'T IT JUST FOR RICH GIRLS?
KOUYOUEN ACADEMY IS A GOOD SCHOOL!?
SHE ENDED UP GOING TO A PREP SCHOOL.
YEAH.
...WELL, SHE WAS DEFINITELY SMART.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY TAUGHT YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

PON (PAT)

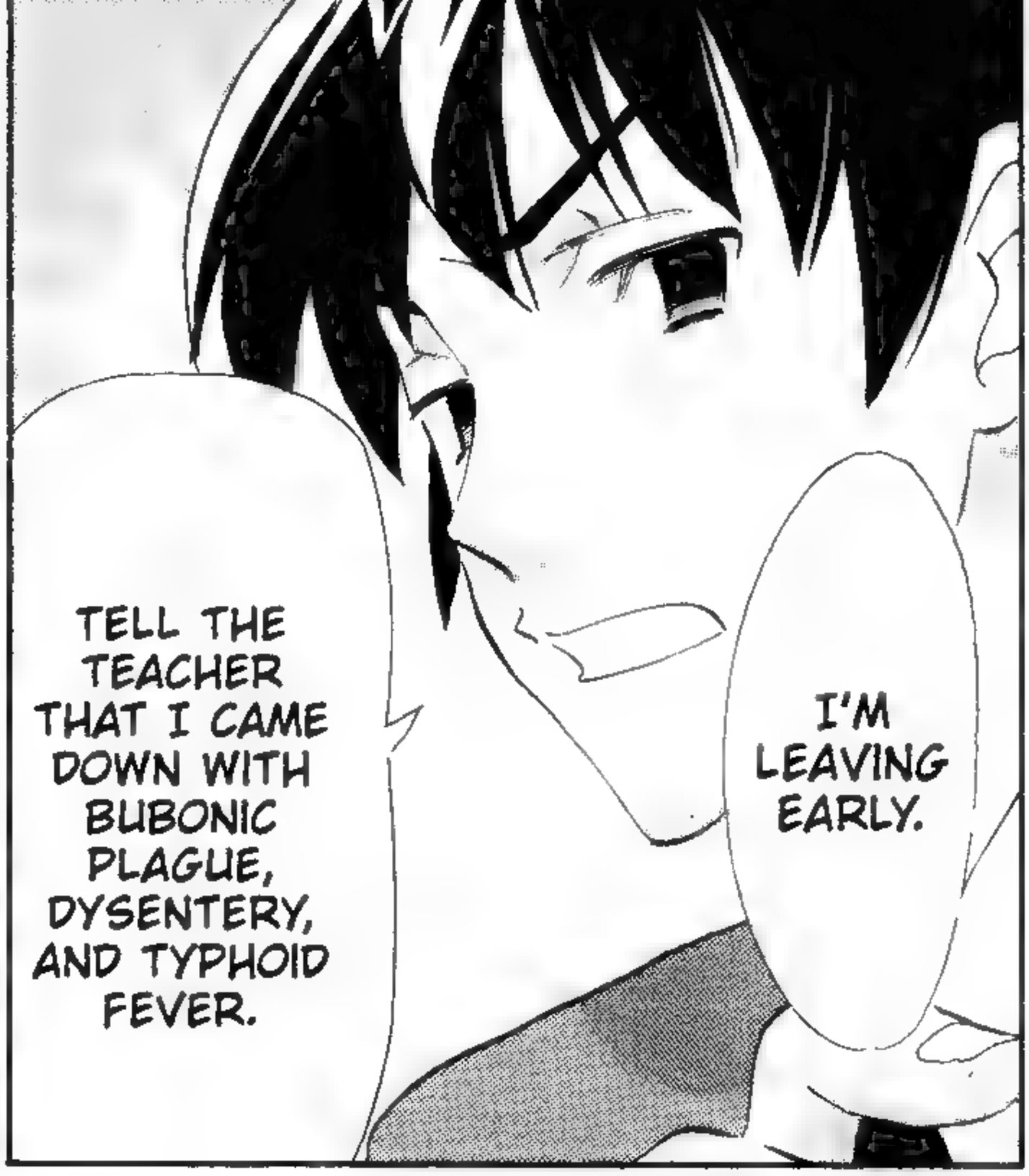
PRETTY ANNOYING TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE IN THE DISTRICT.
AND IT'S A FAMOUS PREP SCHOOL IN THE PREFECTURE.
...BUT THAT SCHOOL'S BEEN CO-ED FOR A LONG TIME.

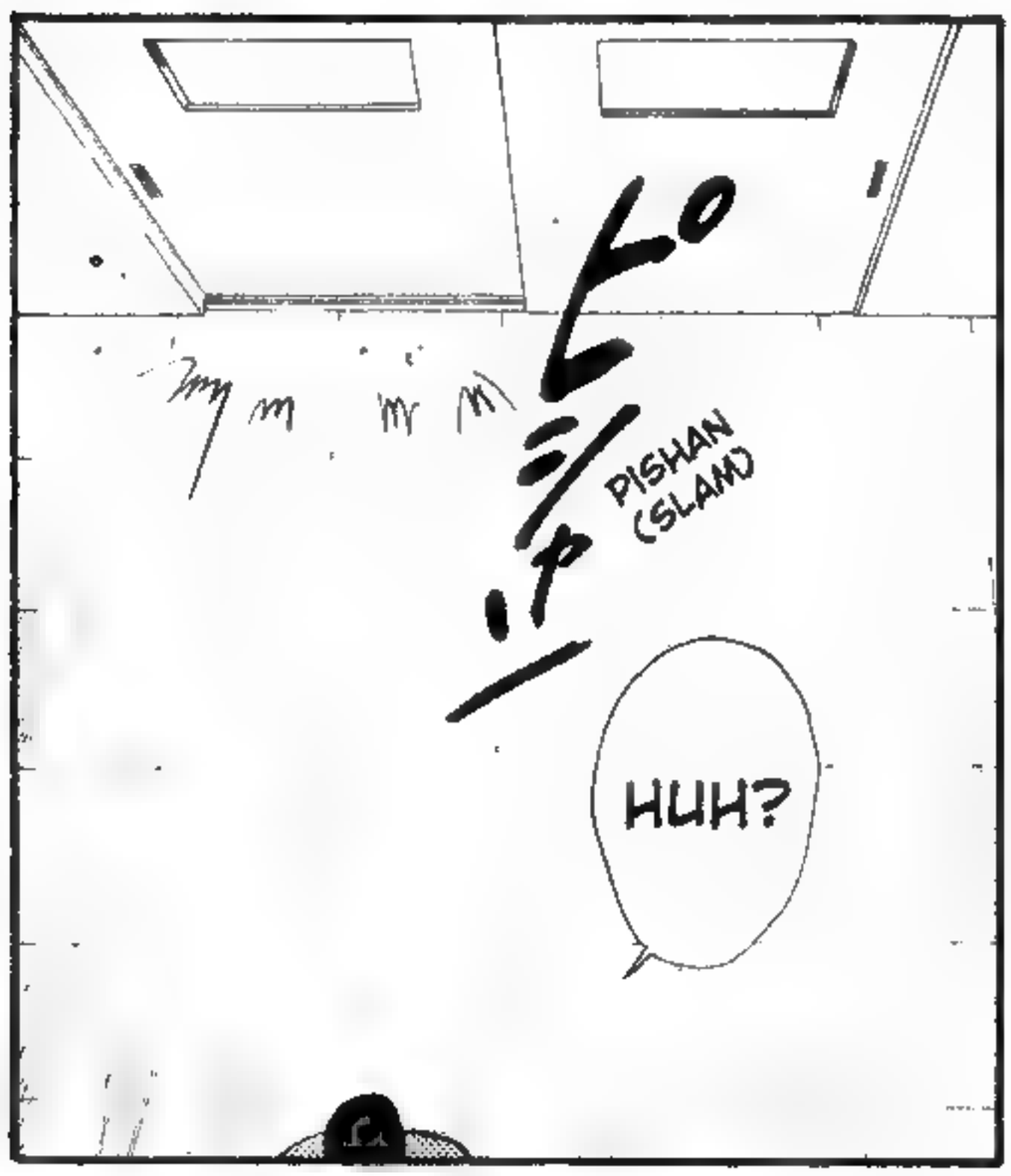
AHHH!
YEAH, I'VE GOT IT BAD.
HUH?
I CAN BARELY STAND. I'M DYING HERE.

AH, MY STOMACH IS KILLING ME.

DAA (DASH)
KYON?

PITA (FREEZE)


TELL THE TEACHER THAT I CAME DOWN WITH BUBONIC PLAGUE, DYSENTERY, AND TYPHOID FEVER.
I'M LEAVING EARLY.


PISHAN (SLAM)
HUH?

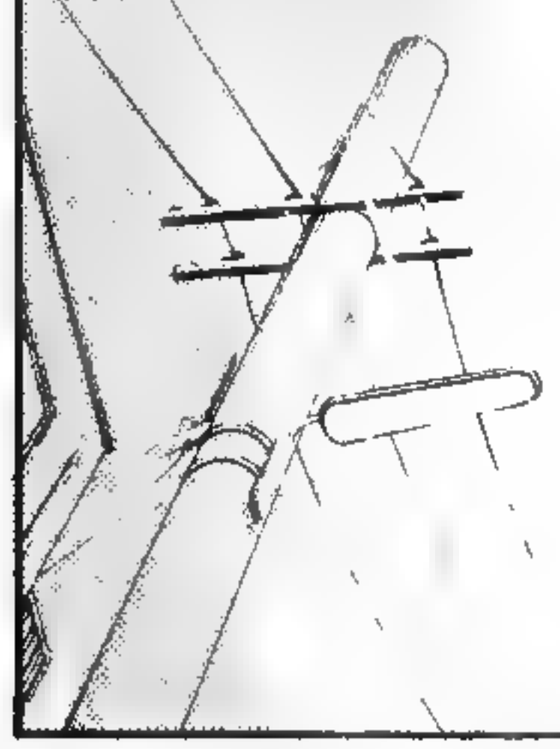
YOUR BAG.
WHAT WAS THAT?

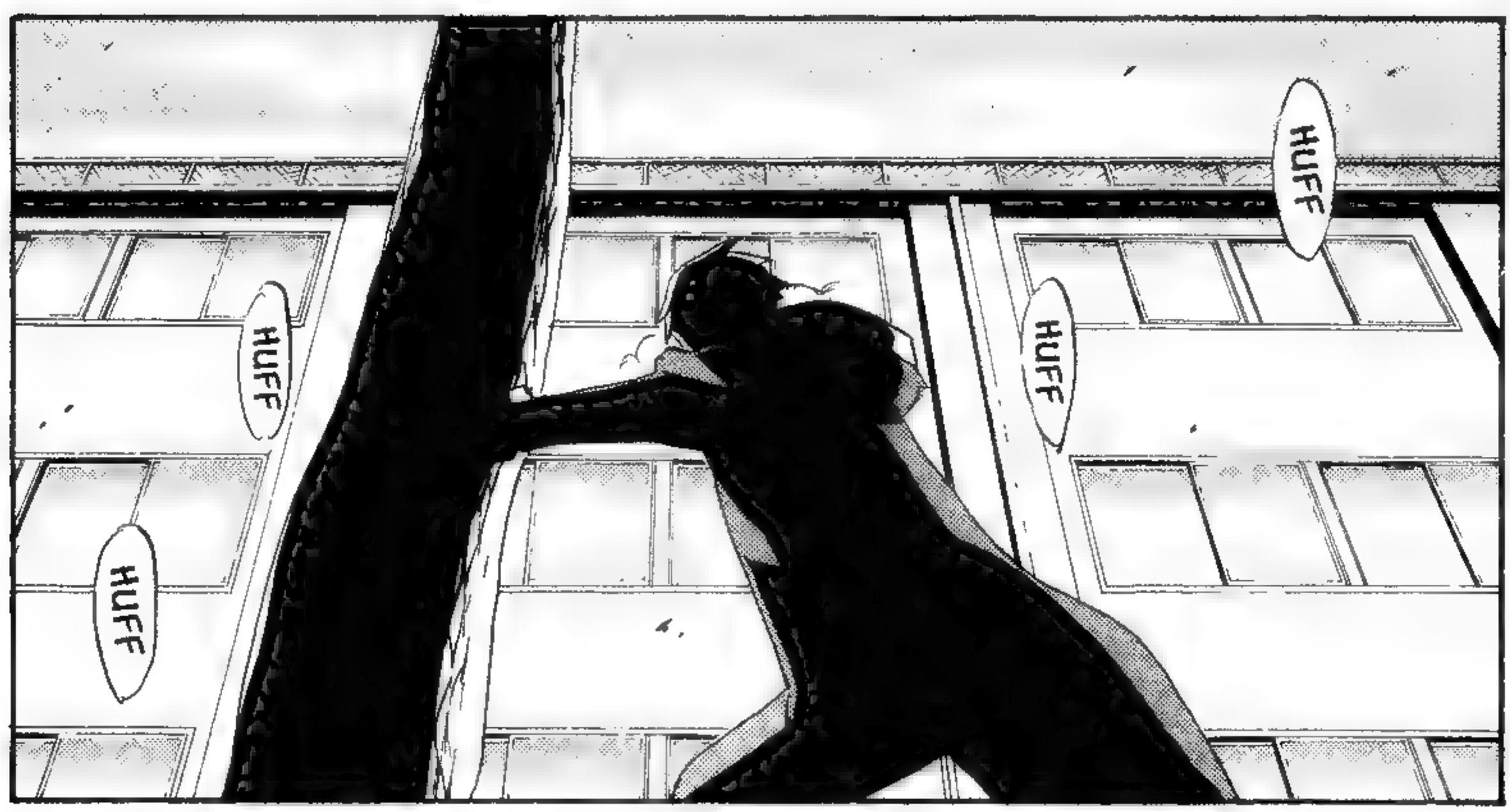
YOU HAVE MY SINCERE GRATITUDE... THANKS.
AND TANIGUCHI.

IF SOMEONE FROM EAST MIDDLE HAD BEEN AROUND WHEN I THREW A FIT YESTERDAY...
NO, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR HYPO-THETICALS...
WHAT ROTTEN LUCK!

HARUHI IS HERE.

OR SHE AT LEAST EXISTS.





HUFF

IT WAS ONLY AN HOUR'S WALK FROM NORTH HIGH TO KOUYOUEN.

HUFF

GEEZ. MY LEGS ARE KILLING ME ...

STILL IN CLASS...OF COURSE.

HUFF

HUFF

I CONSIDERED BREAKING IN... BUT I WASN'T LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE.

I HAD TO WAIT ALMOST TWO HOURS IN THE FRIGID COLD.

HOW ABOUT THAT.

GYA

GYA (CLAMOR)

STUDENTS BEGAN POURING THROUGH THE SCHOOL GATES.

THIS PLACE WAS CLEARLY CO-ED.

KIIIN (DIIING)

KOOON (DOOONG)

THERE WERE A FEW FAMILIAR FACES.

FORMER MEMBERS OF CLASS 1-9.

WHAT ABOUT HARUHI ...?

I THOUGHT THEY'D ALL VANISHED, BUT THEY ENDED UP OVER HERE.

PLEASE. I'M BEGGING YOU.

START HEADING HOME.

DON'T TELL ME THAT SHE FOUNDED ANOTHER WEIRD CLUB HERE...

WHAT... WHAT IF...?
...THERE WAS A DIFFERENT SOS BRIGADE HERE?
WE'D BE UNNECES-SARY.
WE COULD NEVER BE MINOR CHARACTERS OR COMPLETE OUTSIDERS...?!
ANYTHING BUT THAT.

CHRIST, BUDDHA, MOHAMMED.

I PRAYED TO EVERY GOD UNDER THE SUN...

I WAS CONSUMED BY...

...IRRITATION, IMPATIENCE, AND GLOOM FOR THE NEXT TEN MINUTES OR SO.

BASA

BASA

BASA (FLUTTER)

FUUU (SIGH)

KARAN (CLANG)

DON
(BAM)

I'VE FINALLY FOUND HER.

THERE SHE IS!

HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

AND THERE'S THE SICKENING SIGHT OF KOIZUMI'S SMILING FACE TO BOOT.

WHY WOULD I EVER SIGH IN SUCH AN OBVIOUS FASHION?

I WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND MY SIGH OF RELIEF.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V : END

THERE SHE IS... I'VE FINALLY FOUND HER.
AND THERE'S THE SICKENING SIGHT OF ITSUKI KOIZUMI'S SMILING FACE TO BOOT..!
I FINALLY FOUND A SOLID LEAD...!
IT EMBARRASSES ME TO SAY THAT I CAN'T KEEP MY HEART FROM RACING.

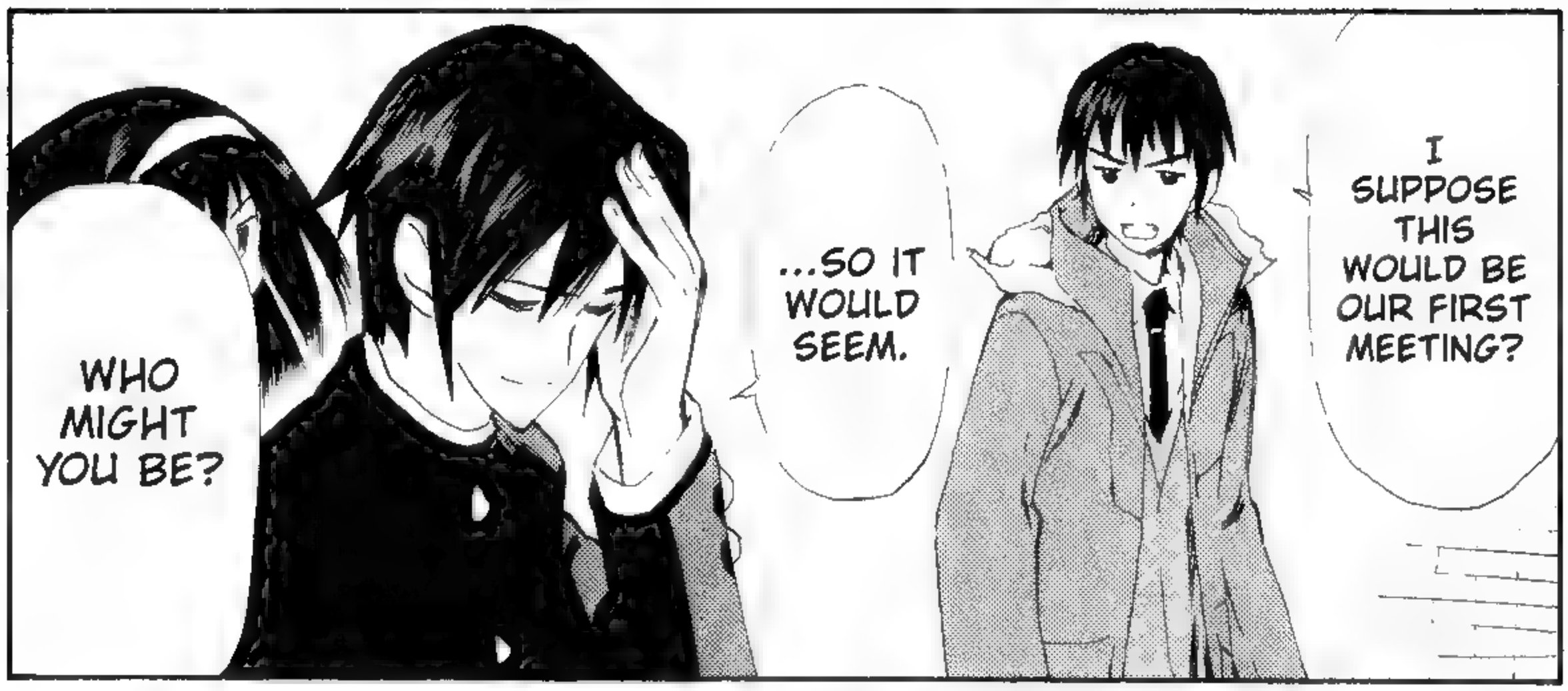
I CAN REMINISCE LATER.
...HARUHI SUZUMIYA!

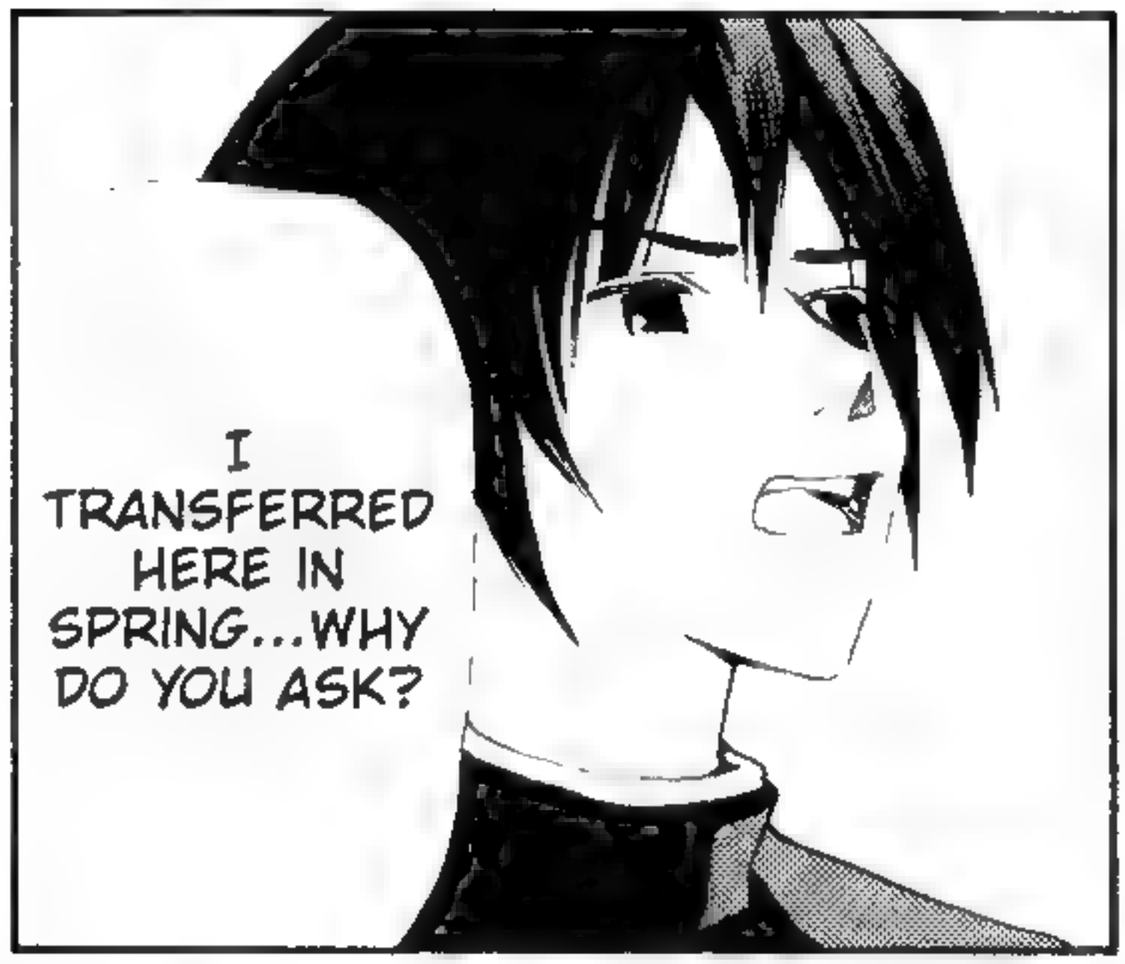
WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
WHAT?
...?

BA (BAM)
HEY!

...THIS WAS HOW SHE USED TO BE.
BEFORE SHE CAME UP WITH THE SOS BRIGADE, WHEN SHE WAS DESPERATE TO SEEK INSTEAD OF CREATE.

IF YOU WANT TO PICK UP GIRLS, WHY NOT TRY SOMEONE ELSE?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.


WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
...SO IT WOULD SEEM.
I SUPPOSE THIS WOULD BE OUR FIRST MEETING?


I TRANSFERRED HERE IN SPRING...WHY DO YOU ASK?

ARE YOU STILL CONSID-ERED A TRANSFER STUDENT?

UGH... HARUHI.
...IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A NAME?
AGENCY?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF AN ORGA-NIZATION KNOWN AS THE "AGENCY," BY CHANCE?
KOIZUMI'S FAMILIAR EYES WERE WARY AS HE WATCHED ME.

TA (TAP)
BA (SLAM)
HOLD ON!
DON'T BOTHER, KOIZUMI-KUN. LET'S GO.
ZARI (SWIPE)
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
DID YOU GO TO EAST MIDDLE?

BA (WHACK)
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!
...!

.....
YOU SNUCK INTO YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL TO DRAW A BUNCH OF WHITE LINES ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS THAT DAY, RIGHT?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TANABATA FROM THREE YEARS AGO?

WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
IF THIS QUESTION DOESN'T WORK, I HAVE NO CHANCE.
...WHAT ABOUT IT?
EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THAT.

MY LAST HOPE.

YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO SNUCK INTO THE SCHOOL THAT NIGHT.

YOU WERE WITH...

...A GUY WHO WAS CARRYING ASAHINA-SA— A GIRL ON HIS BACK, AND YOU HAD HIM DRAW FOR YOU.

IT WAS A MESSAGE TO HIKOBOSHI AND ORIHIME.

THE MEANING WAS PROBABLY ...

...*"I AM HERE."*

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WHO TOLD YOU— NO, I NEVER TOLD ANYONE.

NORTH HIGH... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

...JOHN SMITH.

.....

DOSA (THUD)
...HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT... WHO HELPED ME OUT AT EAST MIDDLE...
THE WEIRD ...
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'RE THAT JOHN?
...YOU?

I'VE FOUND THE LINK.

I FINALLY HAVE A LEAD.

THE ONE PERSON IN THIS MESSED-UP WORLD WHO REMEMBERS SOMETHING THE WAY I DO...

SO IT REALLY IS YOU, HUH?

HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

...DO YOU HAVE TIME RIGHT NOW?

IF WE MET THREE YEARS AGO, THIS CURRENT PRESENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONNECTED.

THE EVENTS OF TANABATA REMAINED PART OF HISTORY.

THIS WASN'T A TOTAL RESET.

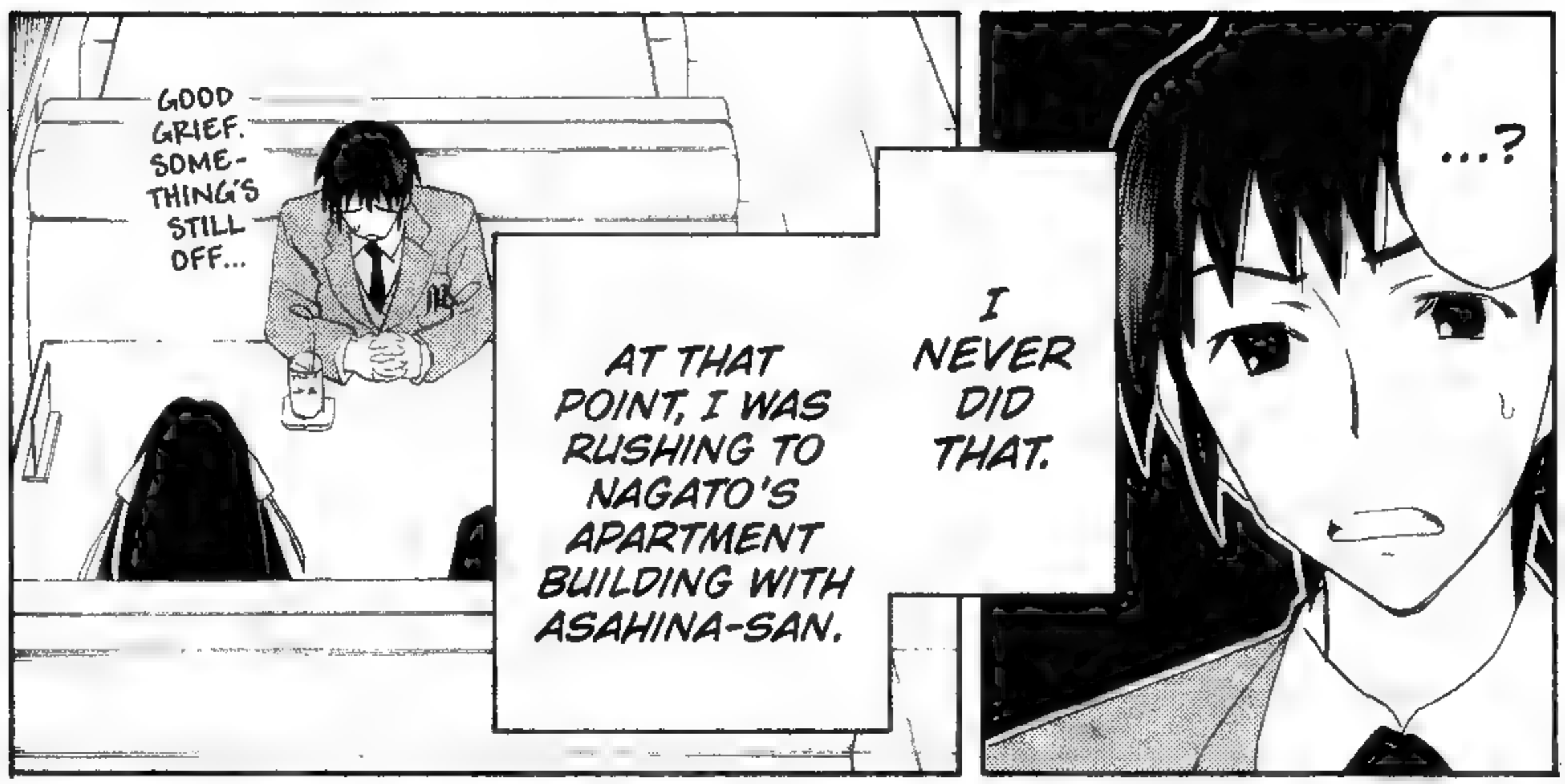
WHILE I WAS ON MY WAY HOME, HE CALLED TO ME FROM BEHIND.

I MET JOHN SMITH TWICE.

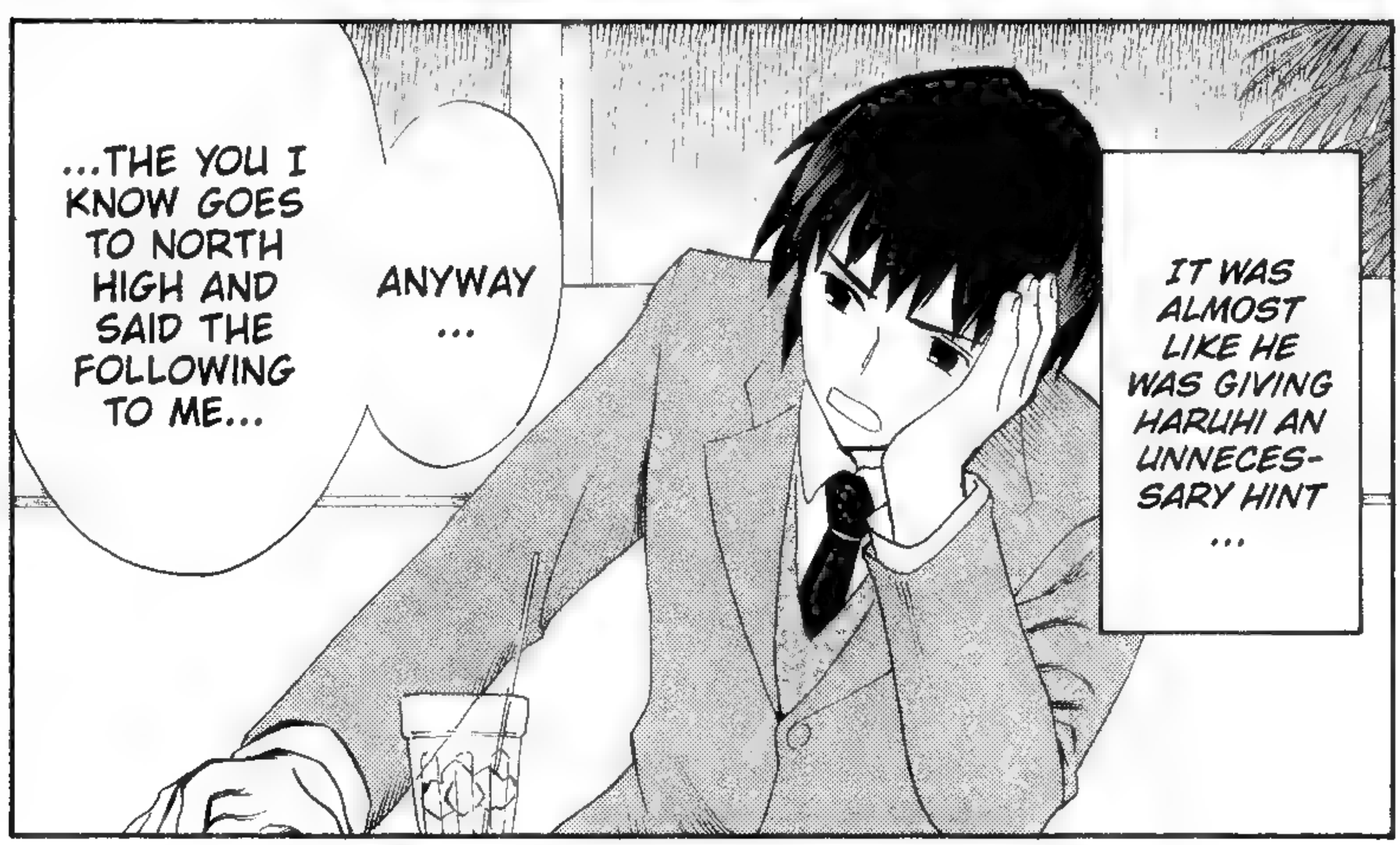
WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

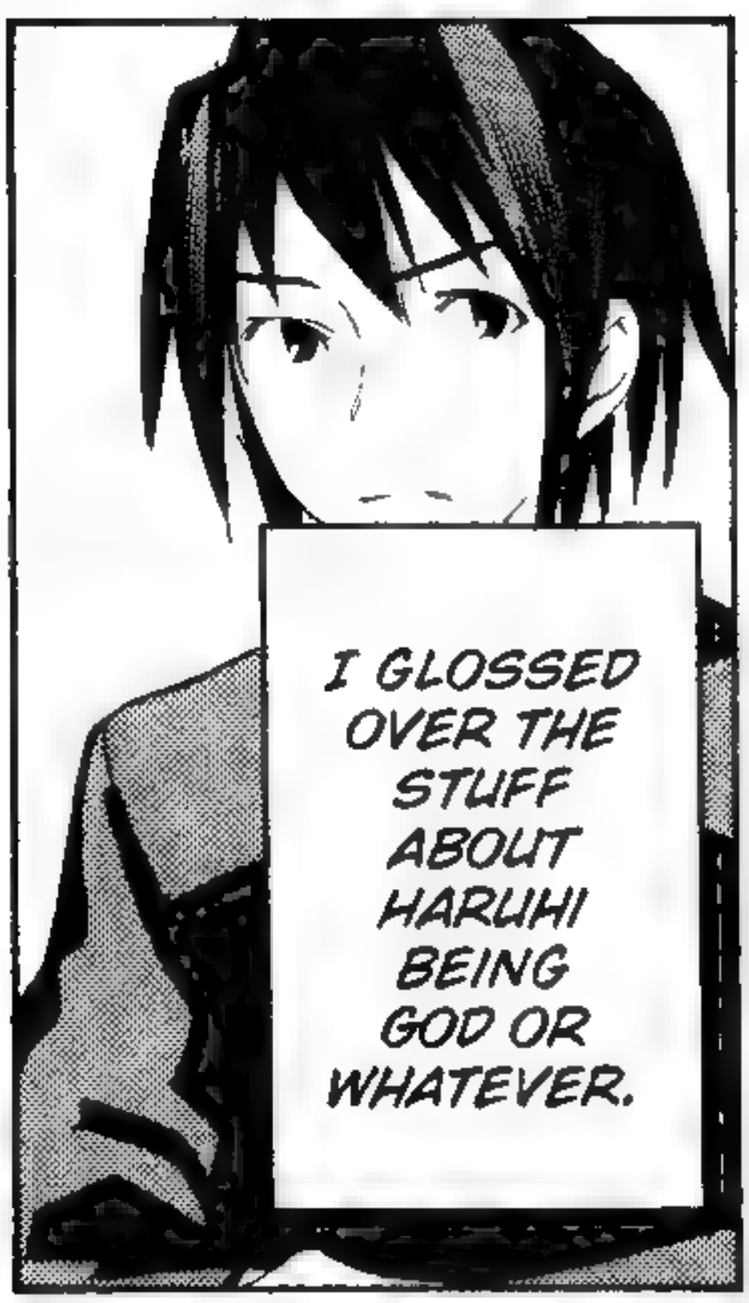
...WAS WHAT HE SHOUTED.

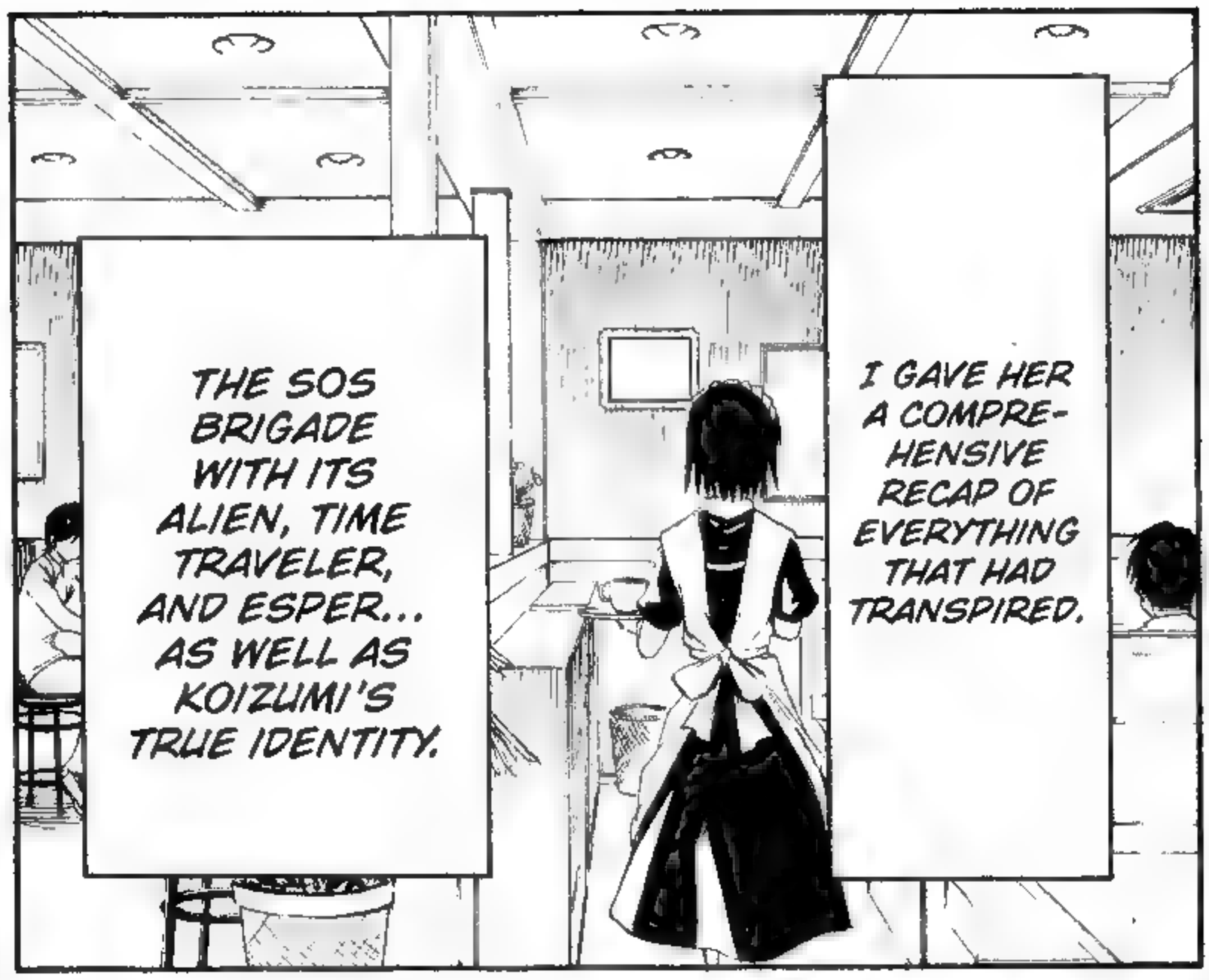
"CHEERS TO SAVING THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT WITH FUN WITH JOHN SMITH!"

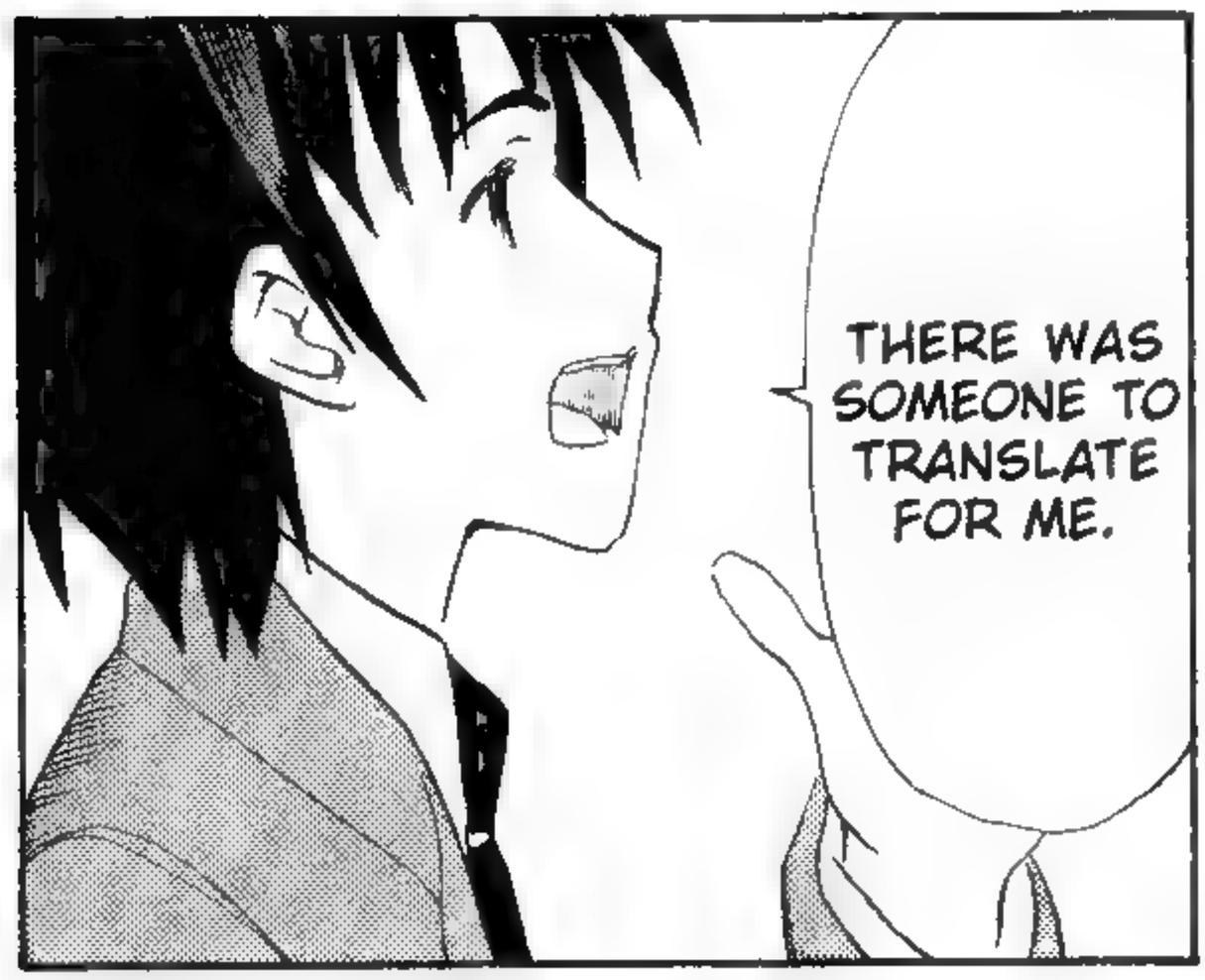

GOOD GRIEF. SOME-THING'S STILL OFF...
AT THAT POINT, I WAS RUSHING TO NAGATO'S APARTMENT BUILDING WITH ASAHINA-SAN.
I NEVER DID THAT.
...?

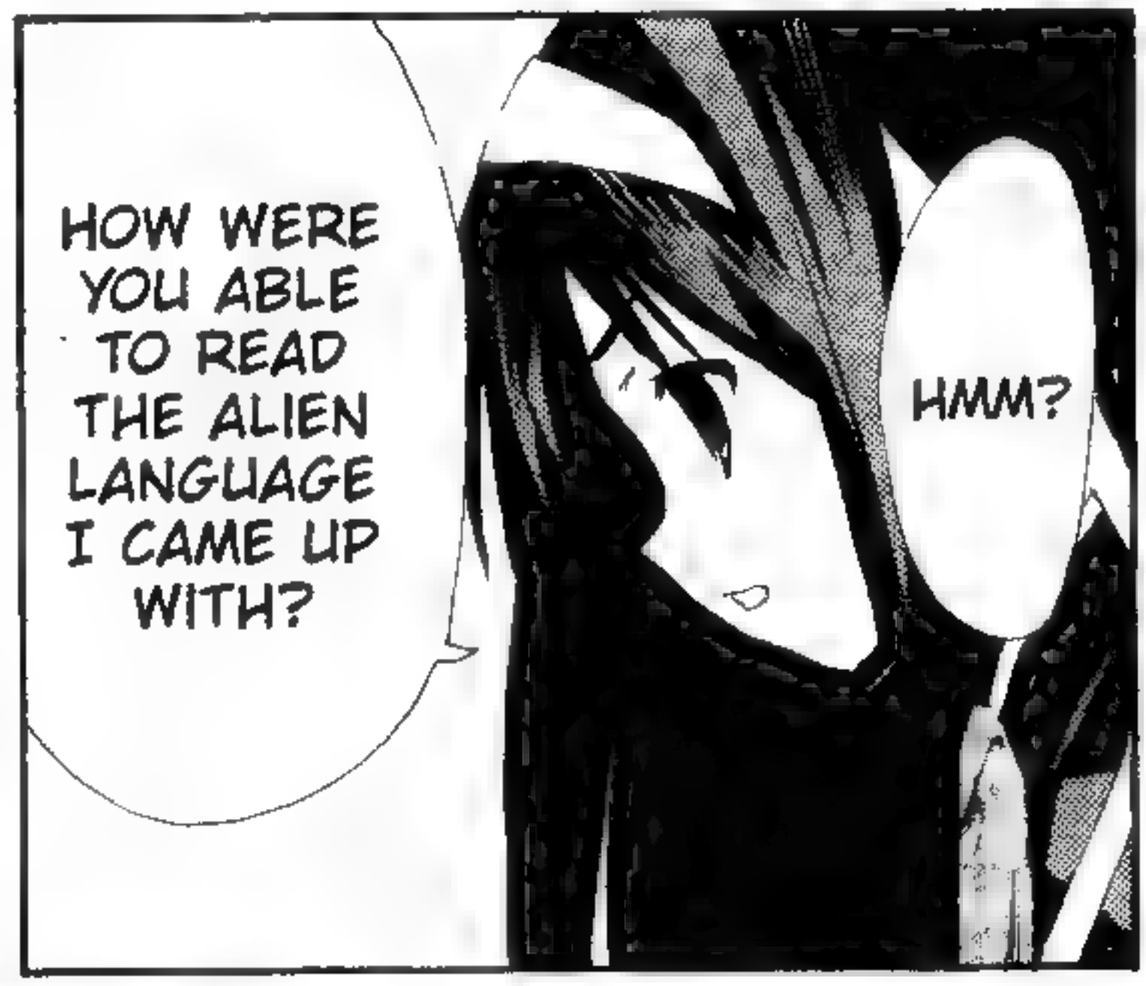
AND WHY DID HE PICK THOSE WORDS...
WAS THERE ANOTHER JOHN SMITH?


...THE YOU I KNOW GOES TO NORTH HIGH AND SAID THE FOLLOWING TO ME...
ANYWAY ...
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HE WAS GIVING HARUHI AN UNNECES-SARY HINT ...


I GLOSSED OVER THE STUFF ABOUT HARUHI BEING GOD OR WHATEVER.


THE SOS BRIGADE WITH ITS ALIEN, TIME TRAVELER, AND ESPER... AS WELL AS KOIZUMI'S TRUE IDENTITY.
I GAVE HER A COMPREHENSIVE RECAP OF EVERYTHING THAT HAD TRANSPIRED.


THERE WAS SOMEONE TO TRANSLATE FOR ME.


HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO READ THE ALIEN LANGUAGE I CAME UP WITH?
HMM?

AN ALIEN-MADE HUMAN CONTACT-PURPOSE HUMANOID INTERFACE...
...TO BE EXACT, I THINK.
WAS IT THE ALIEN?

ALIEN... TIME TRAVELER.
...AS WELL AS OUR TRIP THROUGH TIME.
I ALSO TOLD THEM ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN...
I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT YUKI NAGATO.

YEP...
...I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT.
SO THE JOHN I MET THEN WAS YOU, HUH?

I BELIEVE YOU.
THAT VERSION OF ME MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY STUPID.

YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD I SAID THE LAST TIME I MENTIONED THIS.
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY REASON-ABLE ABOUT THIS.

BECAUSE IT'S A LOT MORE *FUN* THAT WAY.

BUT I NEVER SAW ANYONE LIKE JOHN.

I CHECKED OUT ALL OF THE STUDENTS AT NORTH HIGH AFTERWARD.

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, I WOULD BE SHOCKED.

RIGHT ...

YOU WEREN'T AT NORTH HIGH THREE YEARS AGO.

JOHN WOULD HAVE GRADUATED BY THE TIME I GOT THERE.
THERE WASN'T ANY PARTICULAR REASON.
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO NORTH HIGH?

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS.

ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THE SOS BRIGADE, HUH... THAT SOUNDS REALLY FUN.

THE SECOND WOULD BE THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD, ASIDE FROM YOU, HAS CHANGED.
THE FIRST WOULD BE THAT YOU'VE MOVED TO A PARALLEL WORLD.

I WOULDN'T KNOW. PERHAPS THERE'S AN EVIL-LOOKING ENEMY CHARACTER AROUND?

I WANT TO MEET NAGATO-SAN AND ASAHINA-SAN.

IN EITHER CASE, YOU MUST FIND THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE.

WHO WOULD THERE BE BESIDES HARUHI?

IF I WAS THE ONE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD.

RIGHT, JOHN?

AND I ALSO WANT TO CHECK OUT THAT CLUBROOM... I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REMEMBER SOMETHING.

GATAN (SLAM)

NORTH HIGH, OBVI-OUSLY.

コッ KO (TAP)

NOW? GO WHERE?

WELL, LET'S GET GOING.

カッ KA (FLASH)

KARAN (JINGLE)

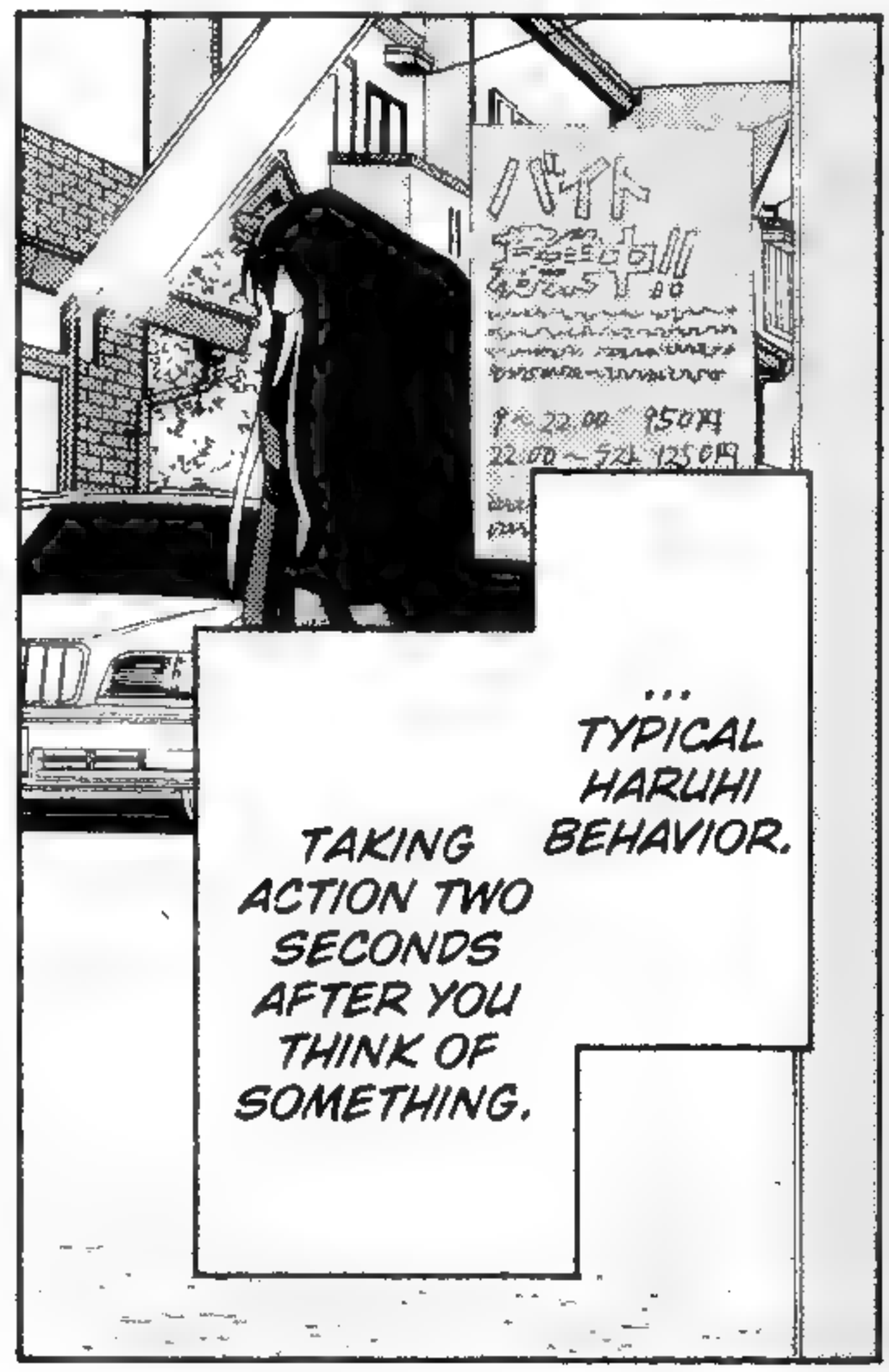
カラン

コロン

KORON (JANGLE)

.....

HEY.

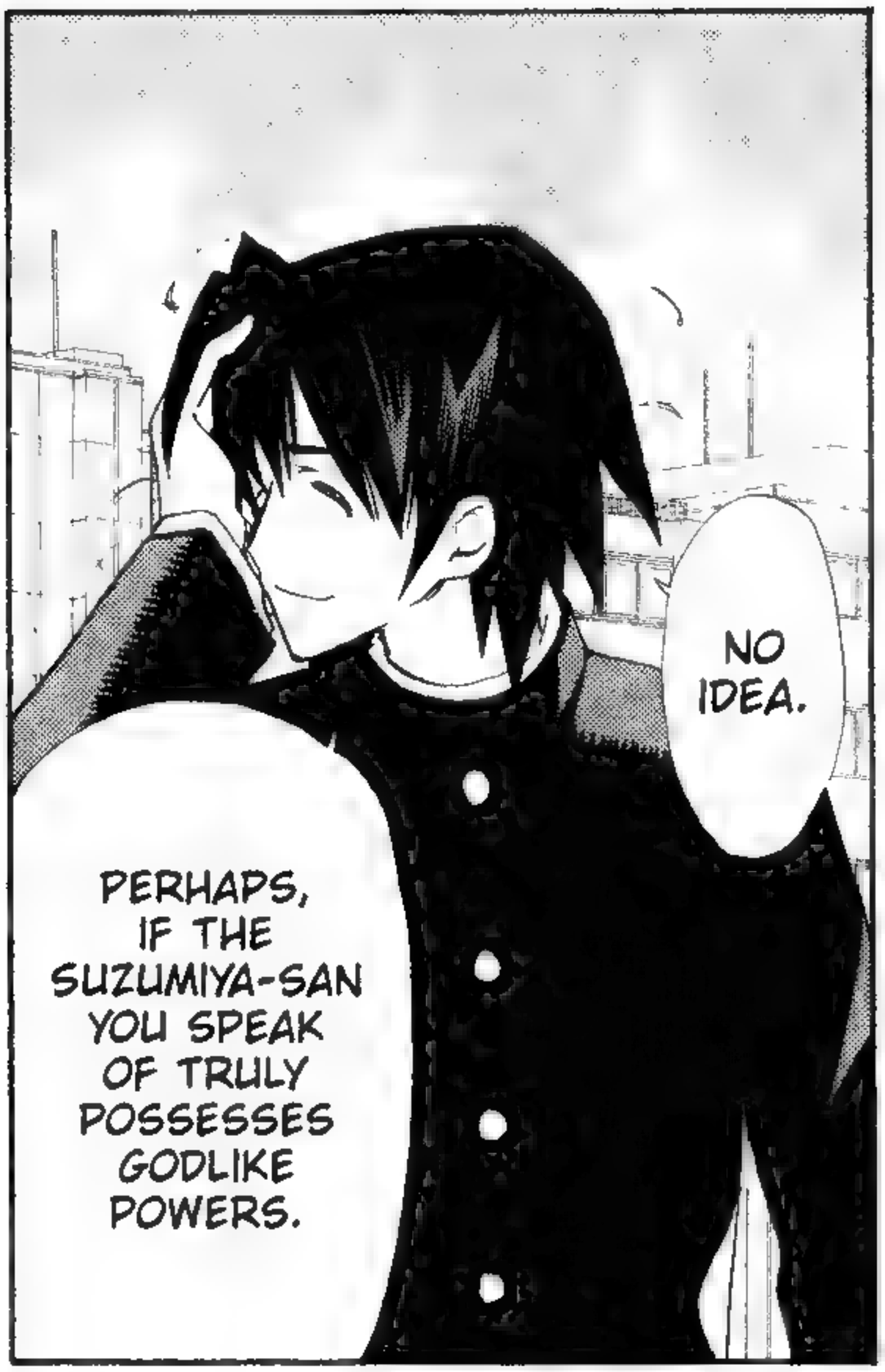


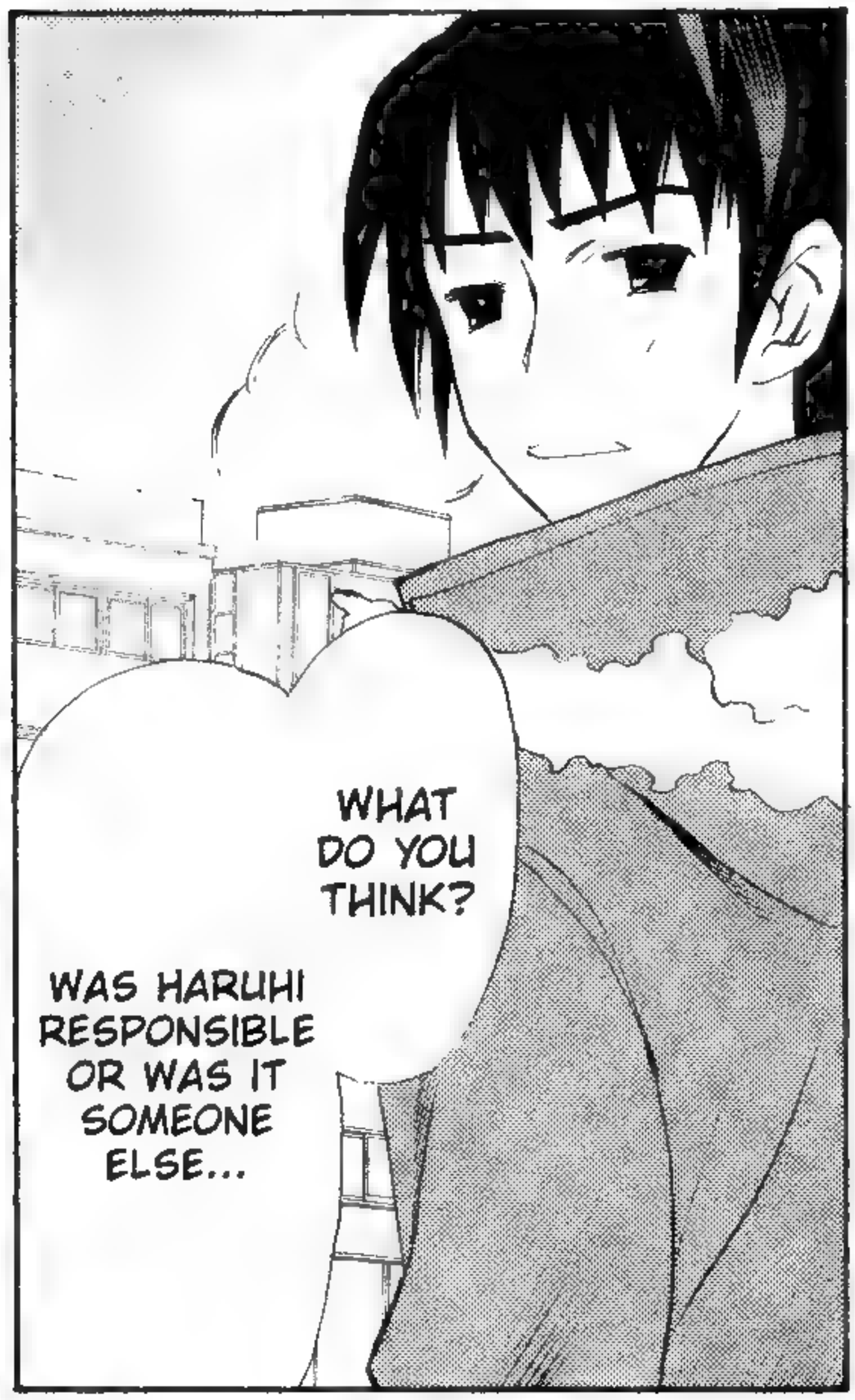
THE THEORY ABOUT HARUHI BEING GOD, WHICH INVOLVED THE ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE.

HIS EAGERNESS TO ANTICIPATE HARUHI'S ACTIONS...

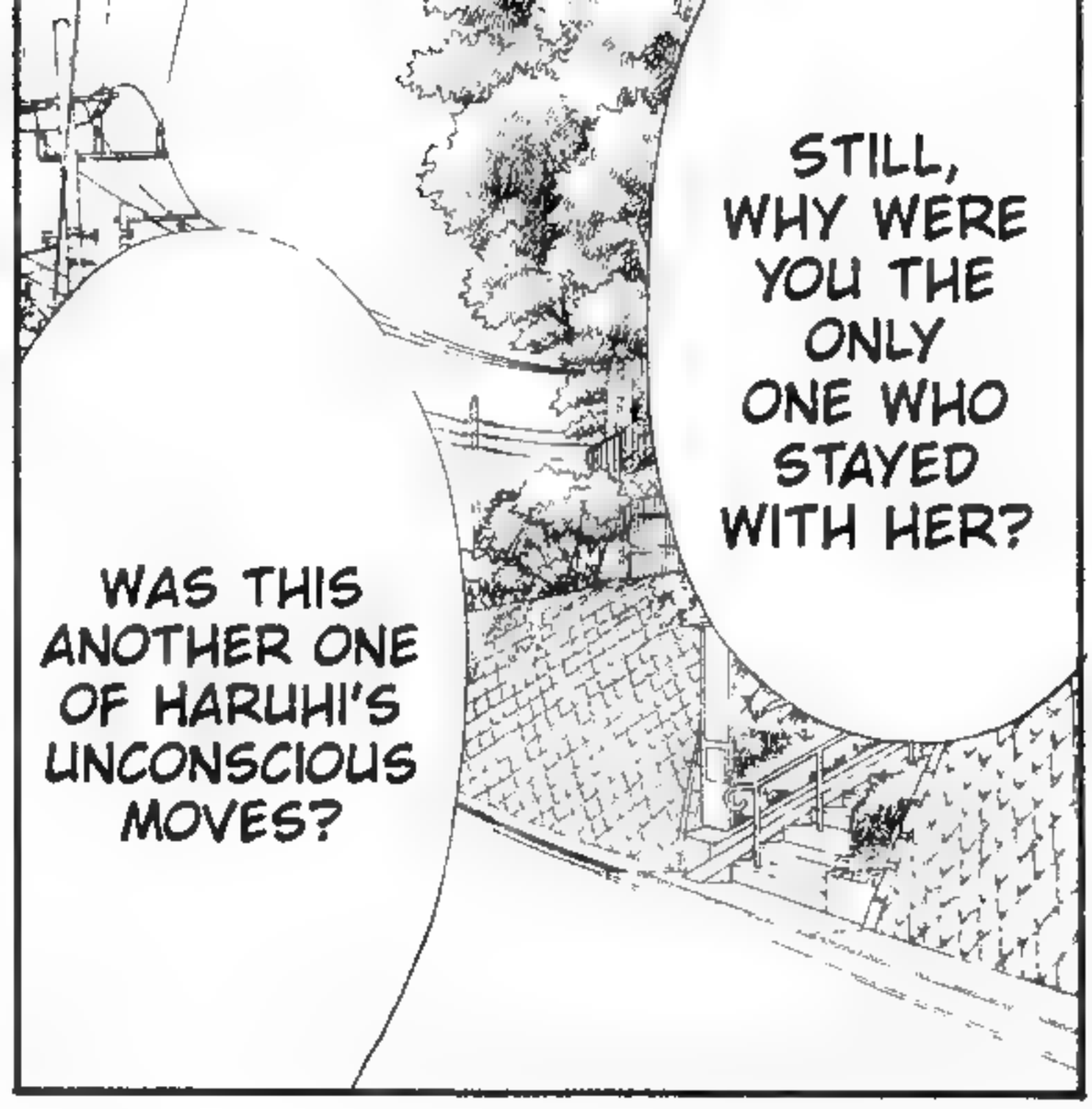
OPEN

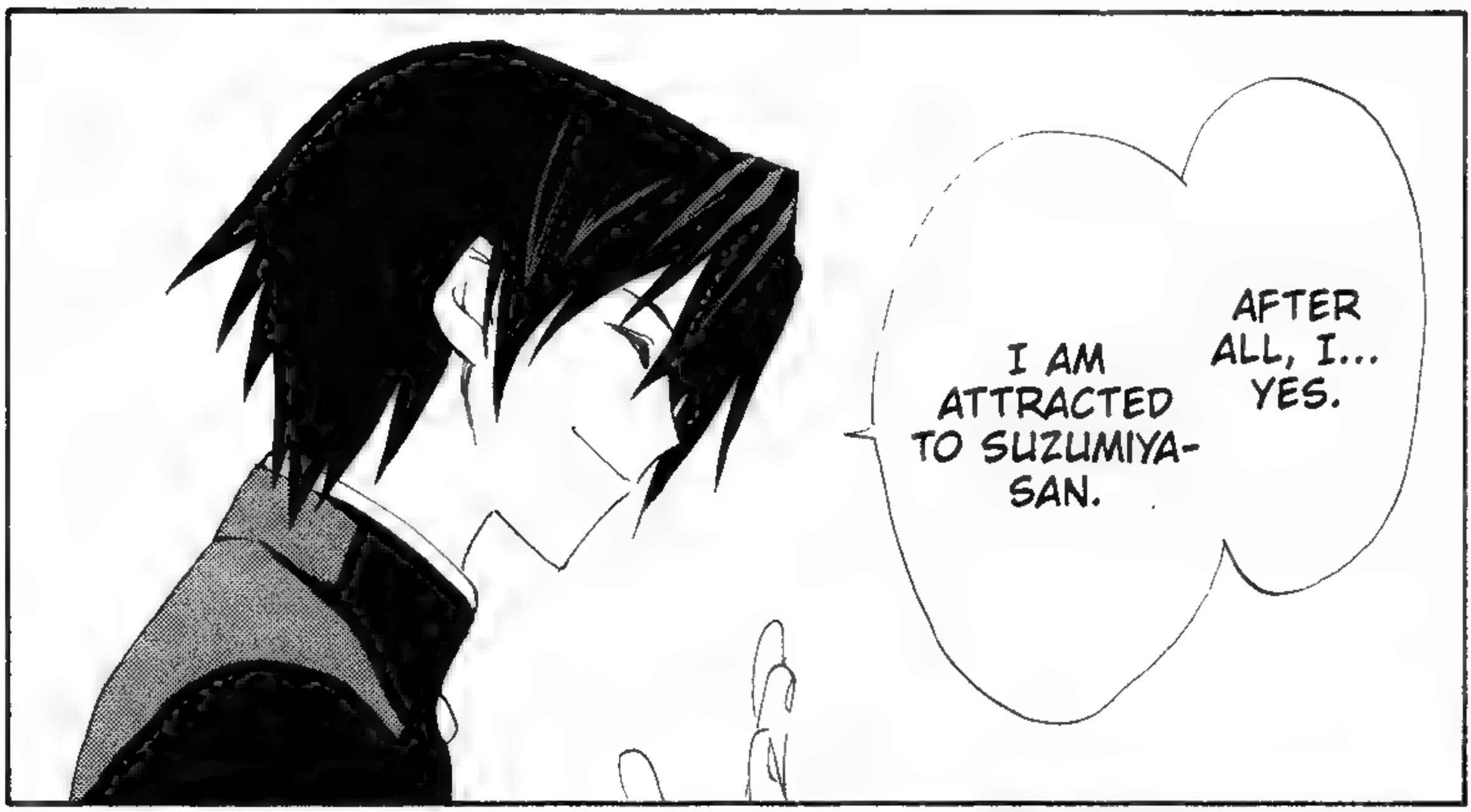
I REGURGITATED THE WHOLE SPIEL HE'D GIVEN ME.

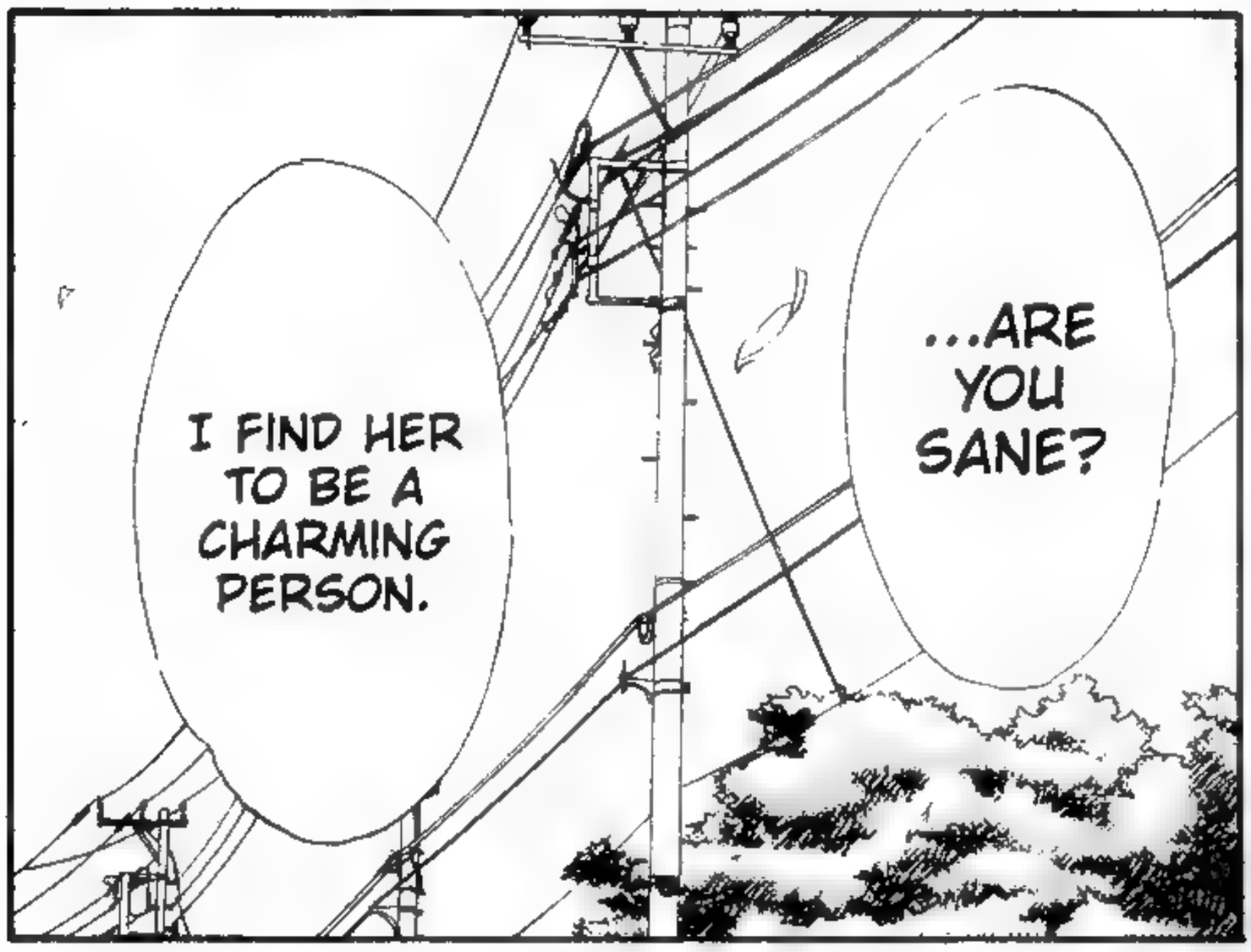




WHAT'S WITH THE CREEPY LAUGH?
HEH-HEH... I SUPPOSE I SHOULD FEEL HONORED.


WAS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF HARUHI'S UNCONSCIOUS MOVES?
STILL, WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO STAYED WITH HER?


I AM ATTRACTED TO SUZUMIYA-SAN.
AFTER ALL, I... YES.


I FIND HER TO BE A CHARMING PERSON.
...ARE YOU SANE?

NONE.

DON'T HAVE ONE.

WHAT WAS YOURS?

HOWEVER, SHE IS...

...ONLY INTERESTED IN MY STATUS AS A TRANSFER STUDENT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY IT UP!

IN THAT CASE, SHE MUST BE TRULY FOND OF YOU.

GI (GLARE)

NORTH HIGH. STEP ON IT!

GACHA (CLICK)

WHAT WERE YOU DIS-CUSS-ING?

NOTHING IMPOR-TANT.

TAXI
GUA (VROOM)

AA (RRM)
YOU HAVE A POINT.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH GOING TO NORTH HIGH...
...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO STAND OUT IN THOSE CLOTHES.

THEN WE CAN DO THIS.
I'LL TELL YOU MY PLAN, SO HUDDLE UP.
AA

JOHN, DO YOU HAVE YOUR GYM UNIFORM AND TRACK-SUIT?
? YEAH ...

SHE COMES UP WITH SOME CRAZY IDEAS.

TOUGH JOB...

IT SEEMED THAT HE SERVED AS HARUHI'S WALLET IN THIS WORLD.

INCIDENTALLY, THE TAXI FARE WAS PICKED UP BY KOIZUMI.

ガラ... GARARA (RATTLE)

ULUU (WHOOO)

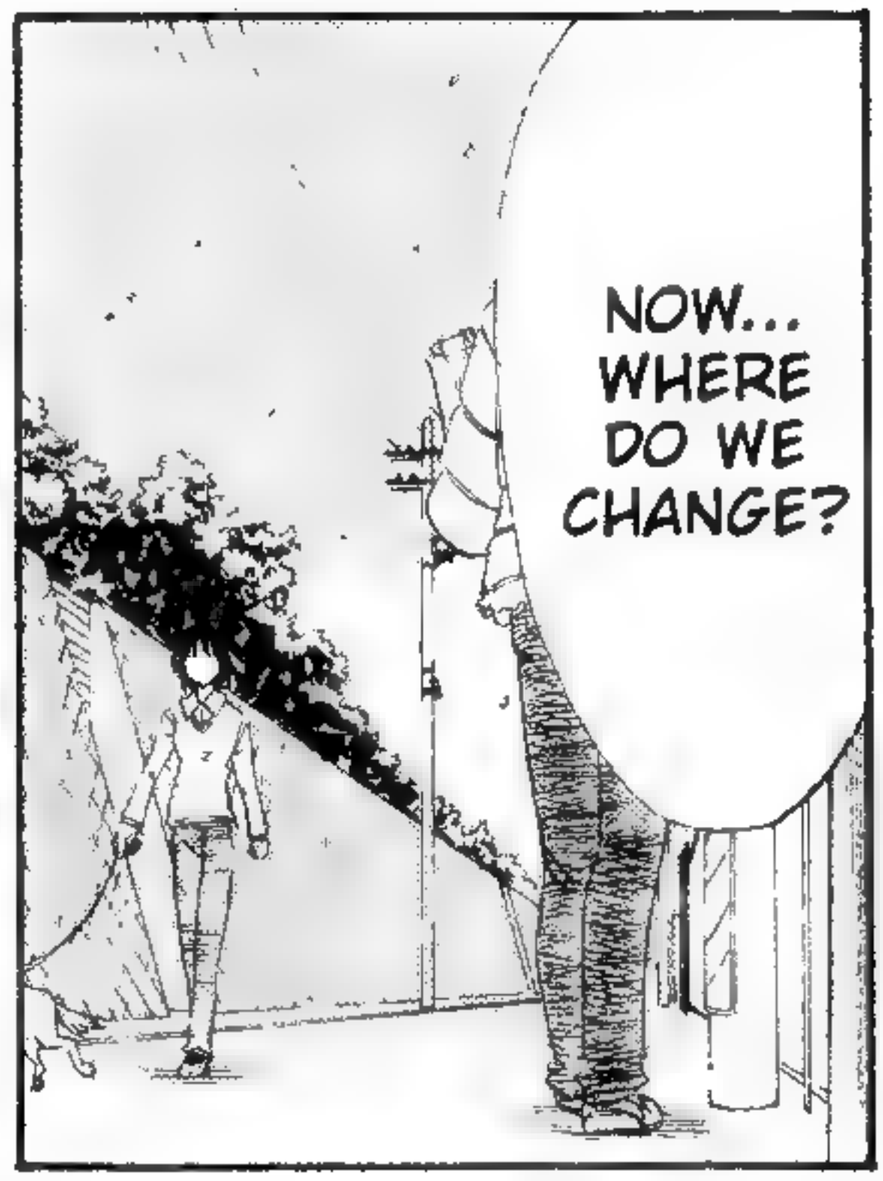
I QUESTION HIS SANITY... WELL, I RECALL HEARING THAT SHE WAS POPULAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IS THIS GUY SERIOUSLY ROMANTICALLY INTERESTED IN HARUHI?

SA (RUSTLE)
WHERE'S THE STUFF?
NOBODY WOULD MAKE A MOVE ON THE BOSS OF A BIZARRE CLUB.
TA (DASH)
YOU COULD EVEN SAY THAT THE SOS BRIGADE SERVED AS A LAYER OF DEFENSE.

WELL, IT MAKES SENSE...
HARUHI'S PLAN WAS AS FOLLOWS.
DISGUISE THEM AS NORTH HIGH STUDENTS.
THEY'LL THINK WE'RE ATHLETES BACK FROM A RUN.
KOIZUMI-KUN CAN WEAR YOUR GYM UNIFORM WHILE I WEAR THE TRACKSUIT.
OKAY, OKAY.

HUH?
WE CAN CHANGE HERE.

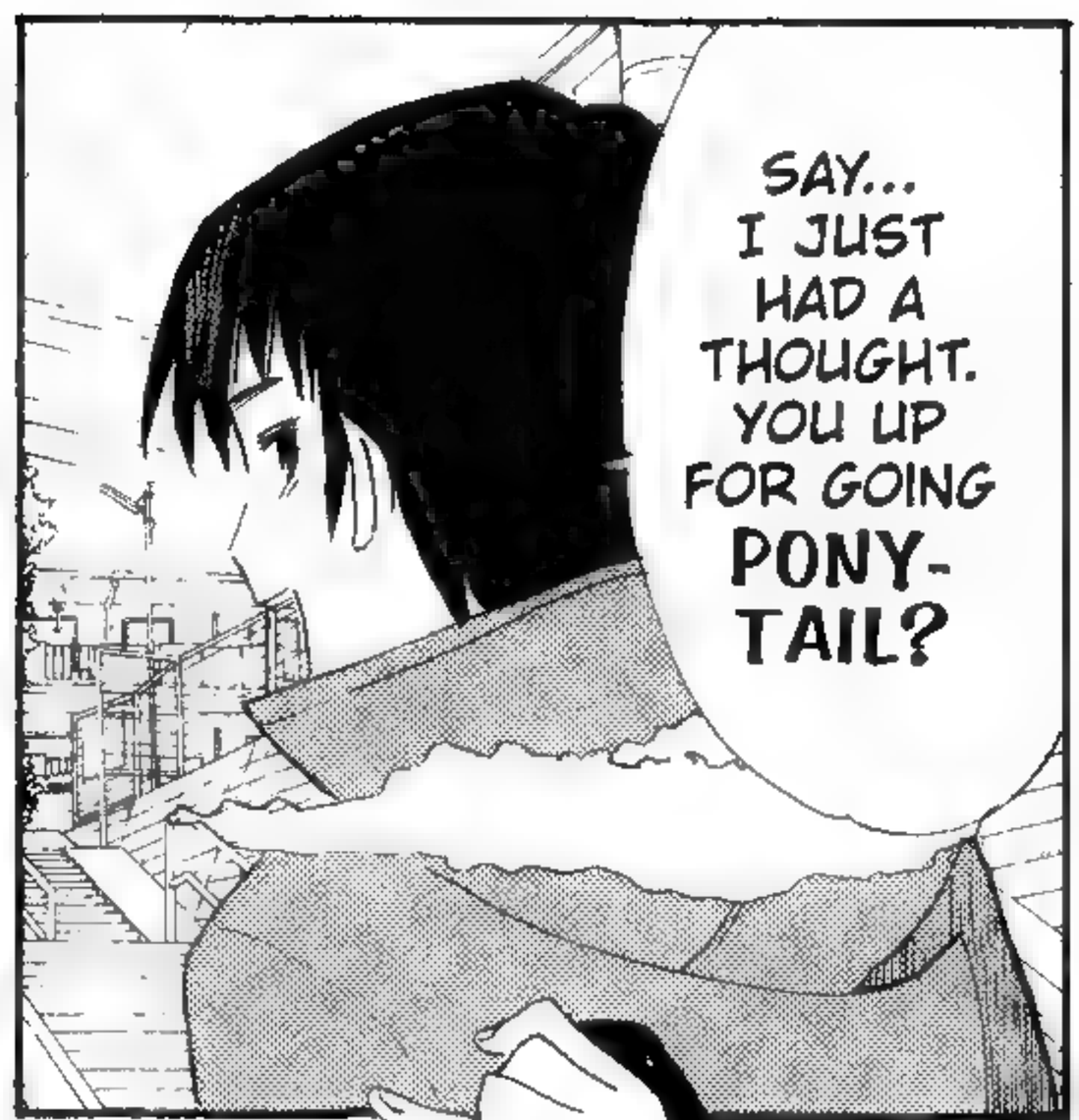

NOW... WHERE DO WE CHANGE?

I DON'T MIND IF YOU WANT TO WATCH.
WHAT'S THAT LOOK SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IYO (FLIP)
THOUGH IT'S PRETTY COLD.
HEY NOW.

BASA (RUSTLE)
NO PUBLIC SPIRIT, HUH?
.....

BA (FWAP)
I'M WEARING A T-SHIRT UNDER-NEATH.
BA



KYU (TUG)

IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?

WELL, I LOOK MORE LIKE AN ATHLETE THIS WAY.

...STUPID.

PERFECT. 36% MORE CHARM.

EXCUSE ME...I'M SUPPOSED TO WEAR SHORTS?

BYUU (HOWL)

...BUT WHY WOULD I BE RUNNING IN MY SCHOOL UNIFORM WHILE CARRYING ALL THIS STUFF...?

SURE, I GUESS...

ACT LIKE WE JUST GOT BACK FROM A MARATHON.

OKAY, LET'S GO.

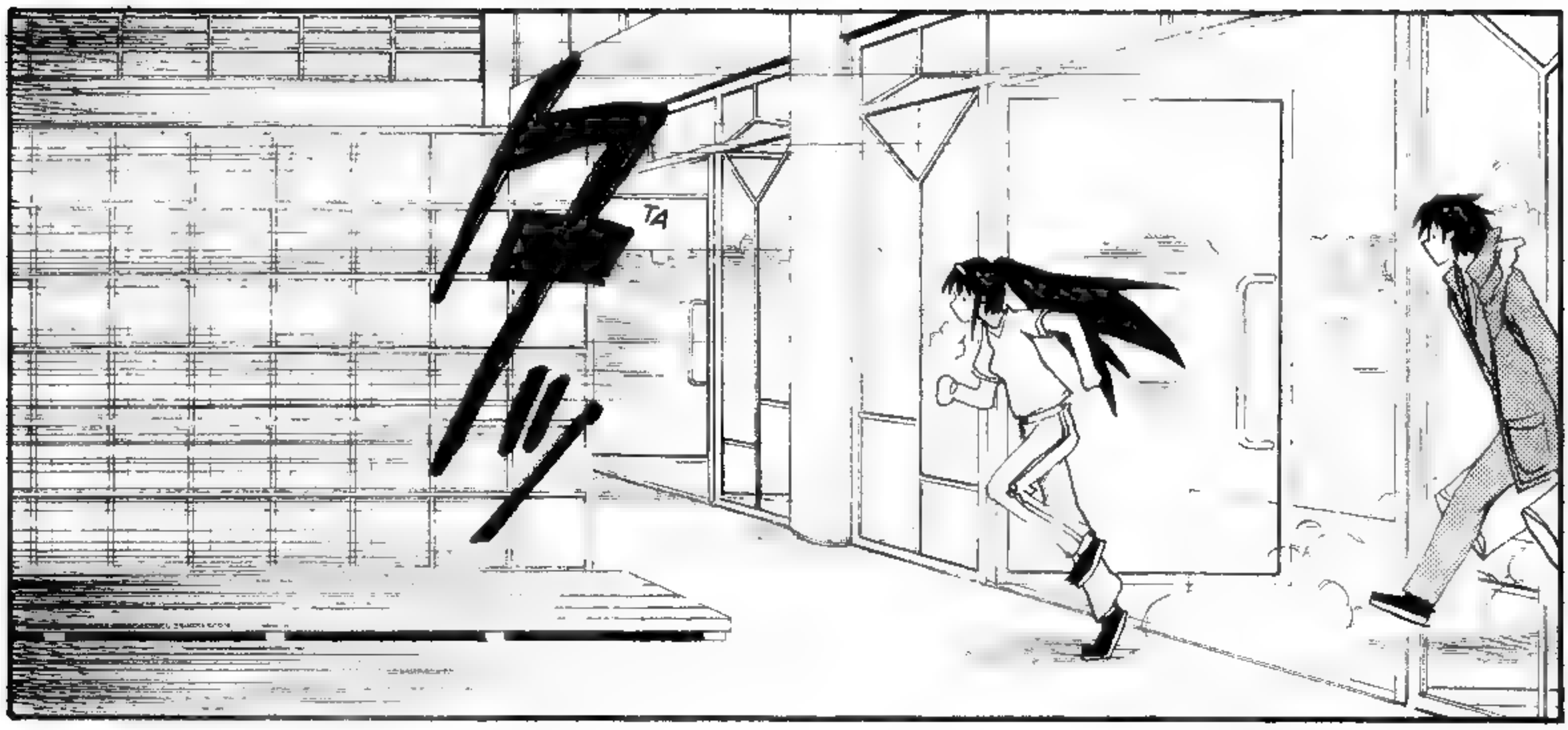
TA (DASH)

WE'LL SAY THAT YOU'RE THE MANAGER.

TA TA

OKAY, FIGHT!

ONE, TWO! FIGHT! ONE, TWO!



SIGN: FIRE EXTINGUISHER

A REASONABLE OBSERVATION.

PREFECTURAL SCHOOLS MUST BE POOR.

WAI

WAI (CHATTER)

WERE THESE WALLS PREFABRICATED?

PRETTY SHABBY-LOOKING SCHOOL.

HYO! (LIFT)

...WHAT ABOUT INDOOR SHOES?

SUZUMIYA-SAN...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FUNNY.

WHY ARE YOU SMILING? YOU LOOK REALLY DUMB.

PUHA (SNORT)

CLASSIC HARUHI.

...ON-THE-SCENE PROCUREMENT, I SEE.

HARUHI'S CRAZINESS IS ONE THING, BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SMILING.

...SHE HAS A POINT.

FOLLOW ME.

TA (TAP)

I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY.

SHE'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR ME.

SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL NOW.

WE NEED TO HURRY.

Y-YEAH.

THE ALIEN KNOWN AS NAGATO-SAN IS IN THE LITERARY CLUB?

HOLD ON.

WE SHOULD SECURE THE TIME TRAVELER, ASAHINA-SAN, FIRST.

THAT NAGATO-SAN IS UNLIKELY TO RUN AWAY FROM US.

PROBABLY WENT HOME ALREADY...

OH.

WHERE IS SHE?

SORRY, NAGATO.

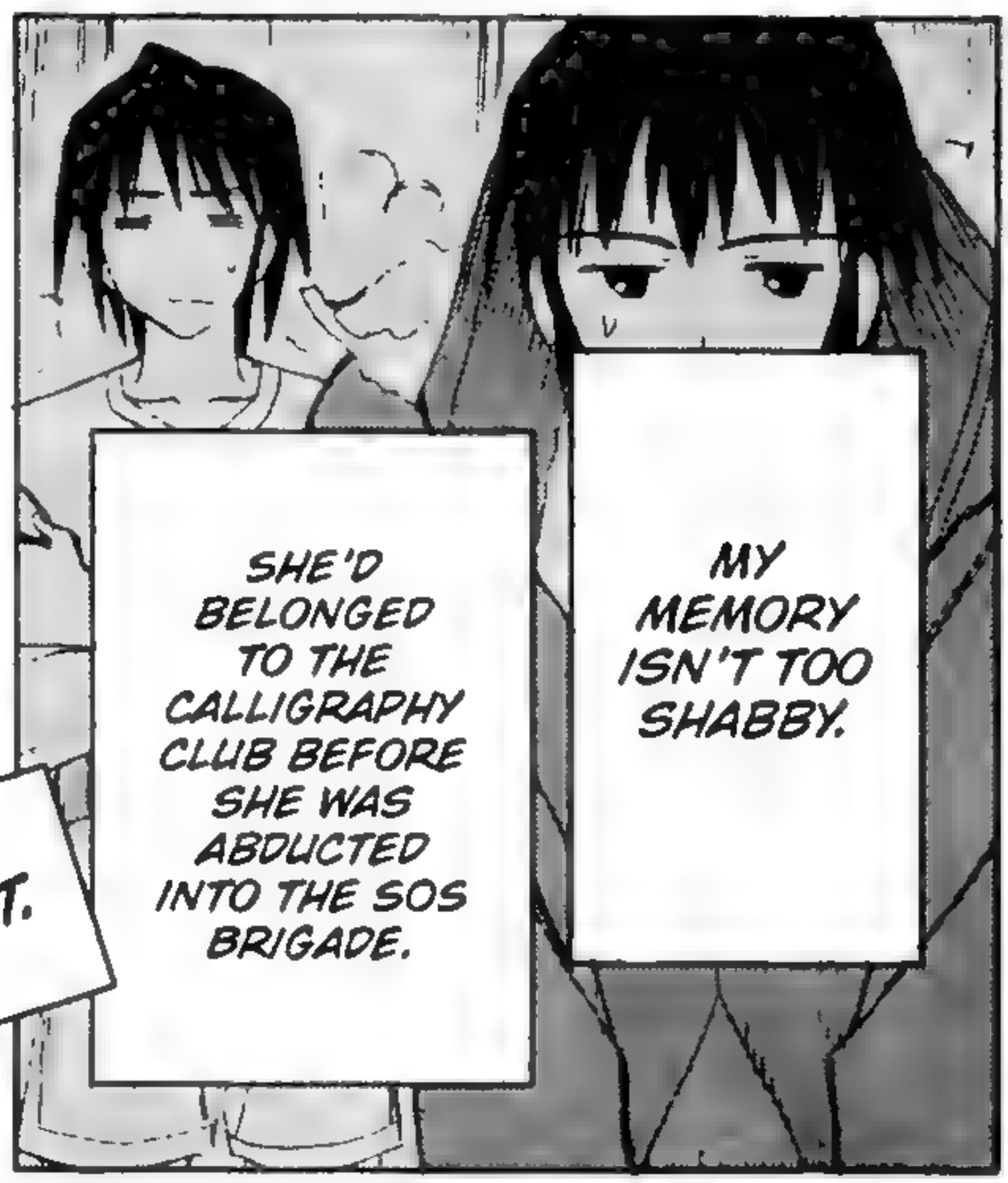
HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER.

GOT IT. THIS WAY.

IS SHE REALLY A SECOND-YEAR? SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I WOULD AGREE, BUT THAT'S HER.

KIKI (CREEEAK)
THAT'S HER?

BAN (BAM)
WHOA!?


BUT.
SHE'D BELONGED TO THE CALLIGRAPHY CLUB BEFORE SHE WAS ABDUCTED INTO THE SOS BRIGADE.
MY MEMORY ISN'T TOO SHABBY.

MIKURU ASAHINA-SAN, WE'LL NEED YOU TO COME WITH US FOR A MOMENT!

I'M SUZUMIYA, HEAD OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL INTELLI-GENCE SERVICE.

BAAAN (BAAAM)

I'D FORGOTTEN THAT THIS GIRL DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO KNOCK.

HUH?

I DON'T WANT HER TO HATE ME ANY-MORE...

I'M ACTUALLY NOT A SUSPICIOUS PERSON.

HON-ESTLY.

GO EASY ON HER.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

MIKURU ASAHINA-SAN, WE'LL NEED YOU TO COME WITH US FOR A MOMENT.

I'M SUZUMIYA, HEAD OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VII

BEHAVE YOUR-SELF!

WAH, UM...

EEP!

GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

BEKI

WOW, YOU HAVE REALLY BIG **BOOBS.**

YEP, PLENTY OF CHARACTER. I LIKE YOU.

COME ON, JOHN!

SHAAAAA (HIIIIISS)

WE'D HAVE A NO-HOLDS-BARRED BRAWL ON OUR HANDS.

IT'S A GOOD THING TSURUYA-SAN ISN'T AROUND.

WH-WH-WHA...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU SHOULDN'T COME TO ANY HARM...I THINK.

ONLY THAT NAGATO-SAN GIRL IS LEFT.
TAKE US TO HER!

...YEAH.
DIDN'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT... CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE US...
...BEFORE WE MAKE OUR WAY TO SOS BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, THE LITERARY CLUB CLUB-ROOM.

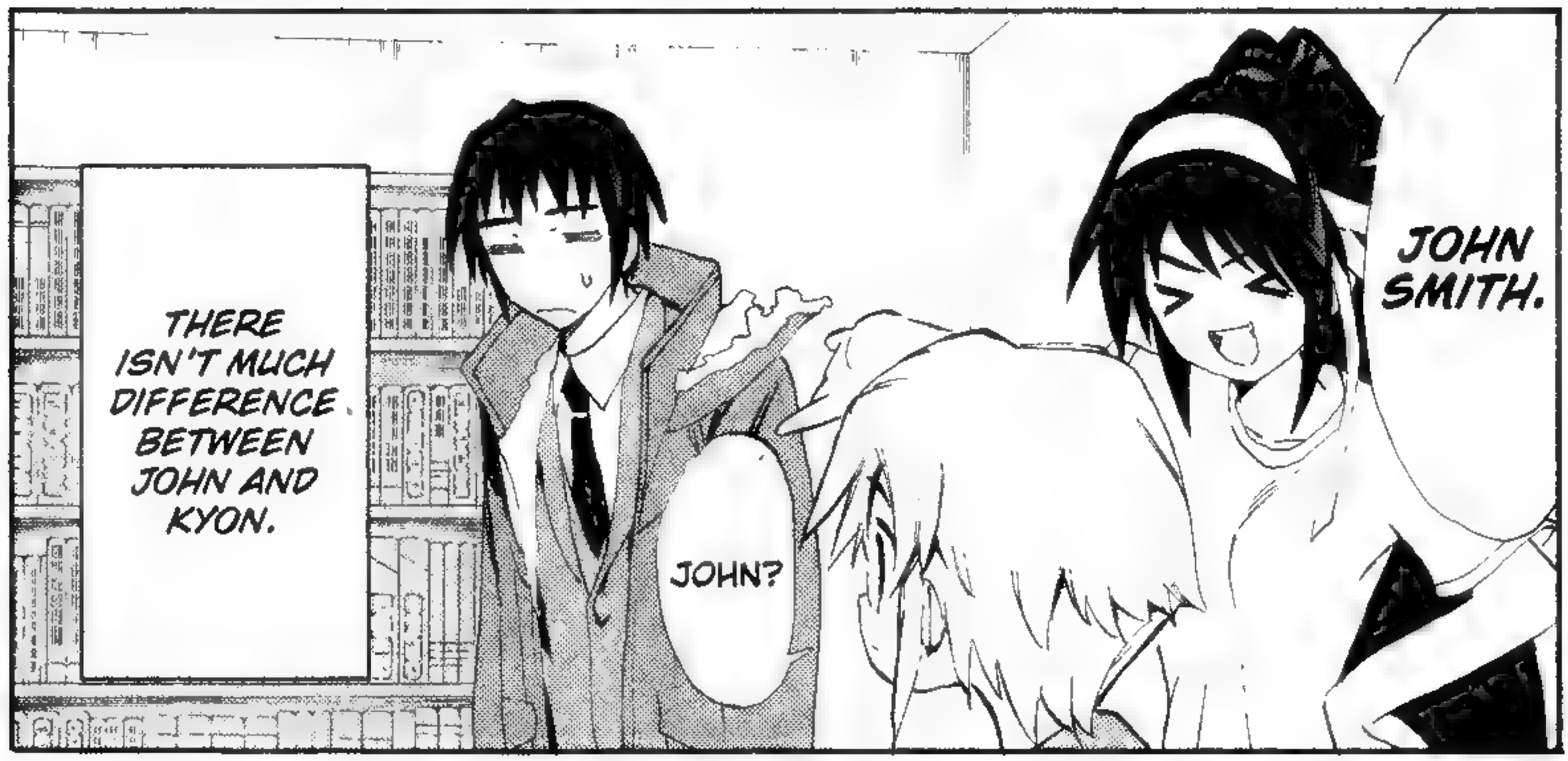
...YO NAGATO.
KON (KNOCK)
KON

HI.
.....
AH...

AN IDENTICAL REACTION...
WAAH!
WHERE ARE WE? WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
WHY ARE YOU L-LOCKING THE DOOR?

YOU'RE NAGATO-SAN?
I'M HARUHI SUZUMIYA. NICE TO MEET YOU.

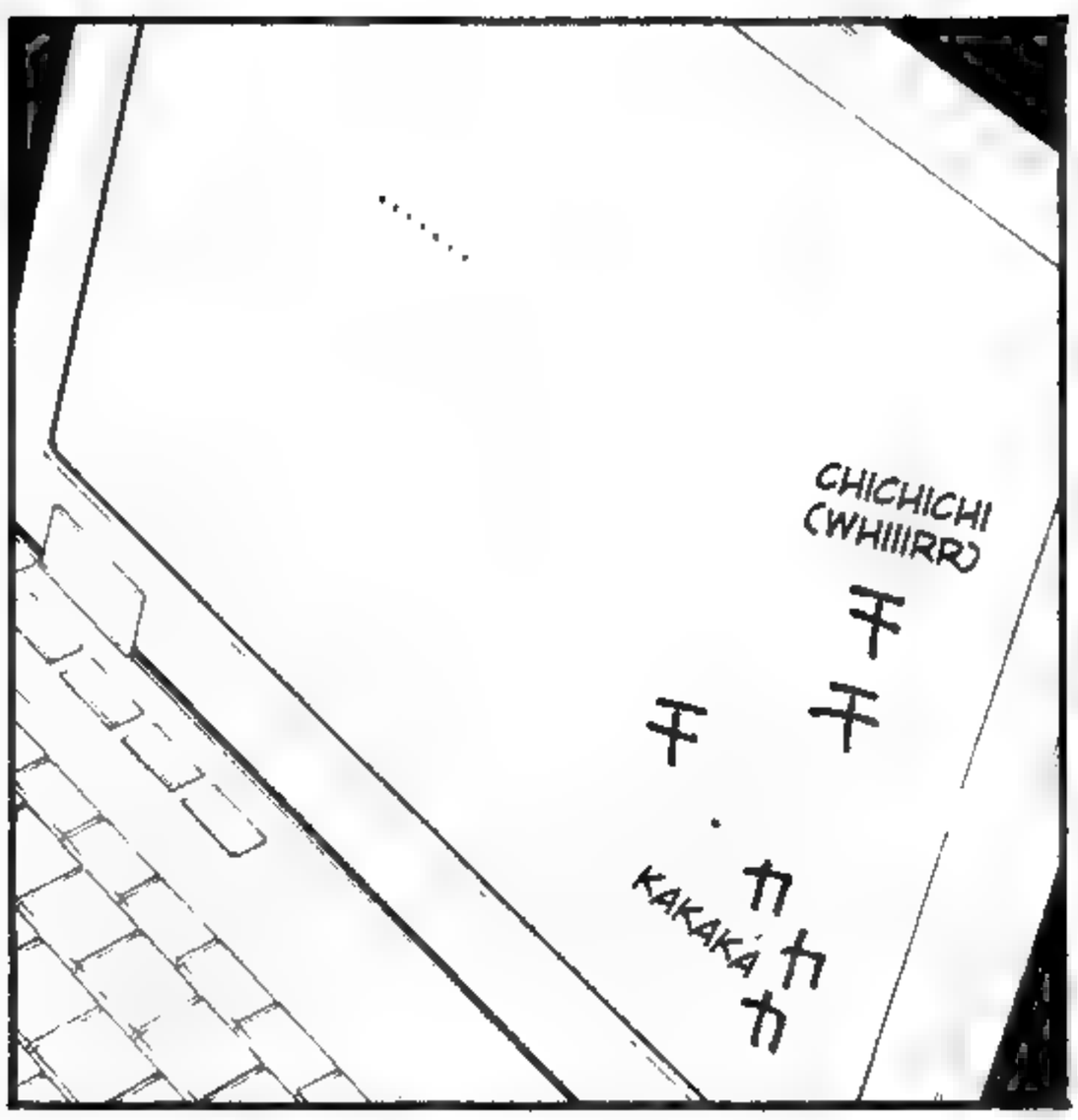
AND YOU KNOW THAT GUY, RIGHT?
THE LITTLE GIRL WITH BIG BOOBS IS ASAHINA-SAN.
THE GUY IN THE GYM UNIFORM IS KOIZUMI-KUN.


THERE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOHN AND KYON.
JOHN?
JOHN SMITH.

HMM, SO THIS IS THE PLACE.
... THOUGH I WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THAT WAY.
STILL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WERE ALL GATHERED TOGETHER ...

HER SUDDEN OUTBURST PROBABLY DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO THE OTHER MEMBERS.
SO THIS IS OUR BASE.
ROOM'S PRETTY EMPTY, BUT IT'S NICE.
THE SOS BRIGADE, HUH...
...HOW ABOUT MEETING UP AT THE CAFÉ IN FRONT OF THE STATION?
BUT THE COMMUTE WILL TAKE A WHILE...
BEEP

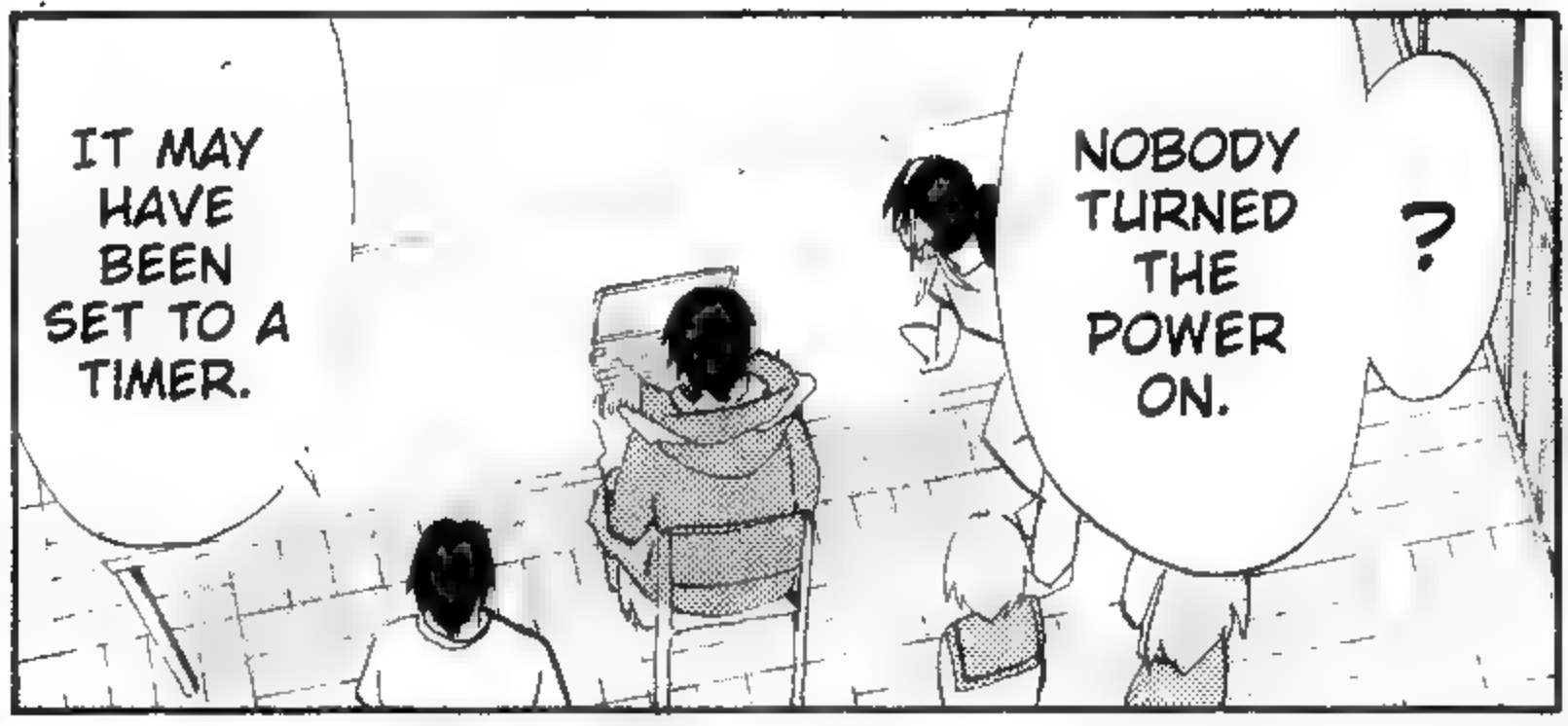
KAKAKAKAKA (CLATTERING)
カカカ・カカ

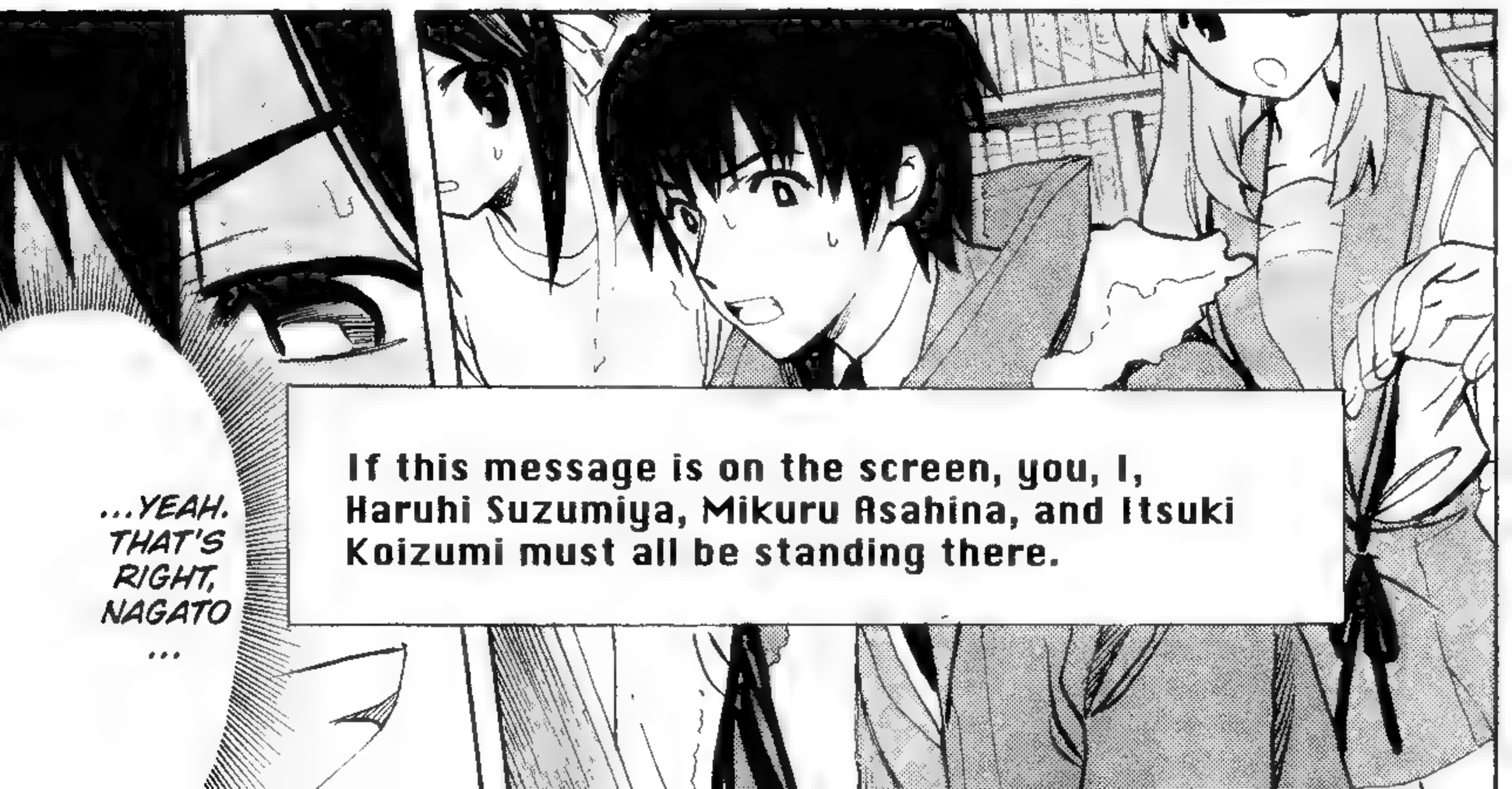

CHICHICHI (WHIIIRR)
チチ
チ・カカカ
KAKAKA

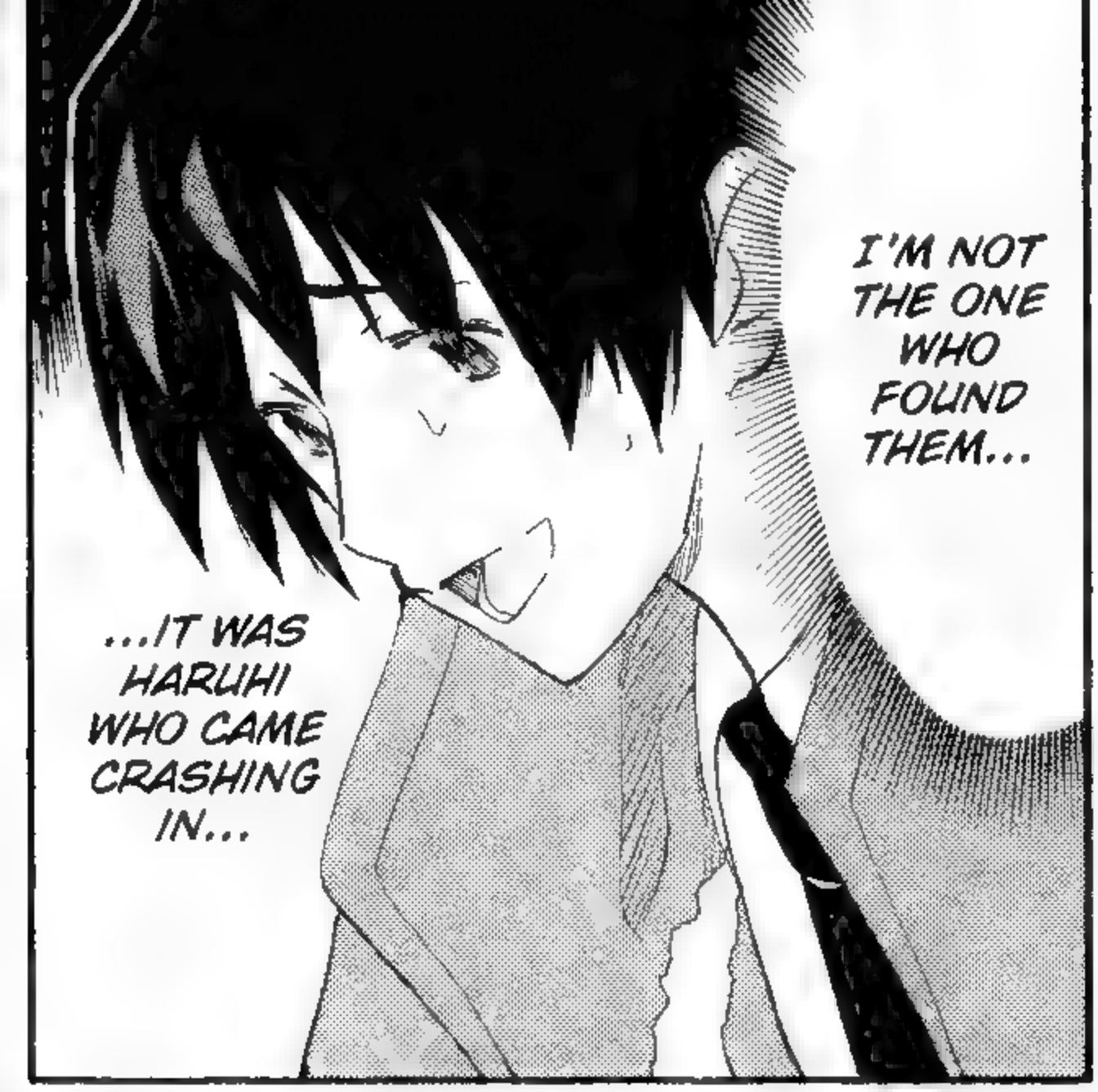
EEP
...

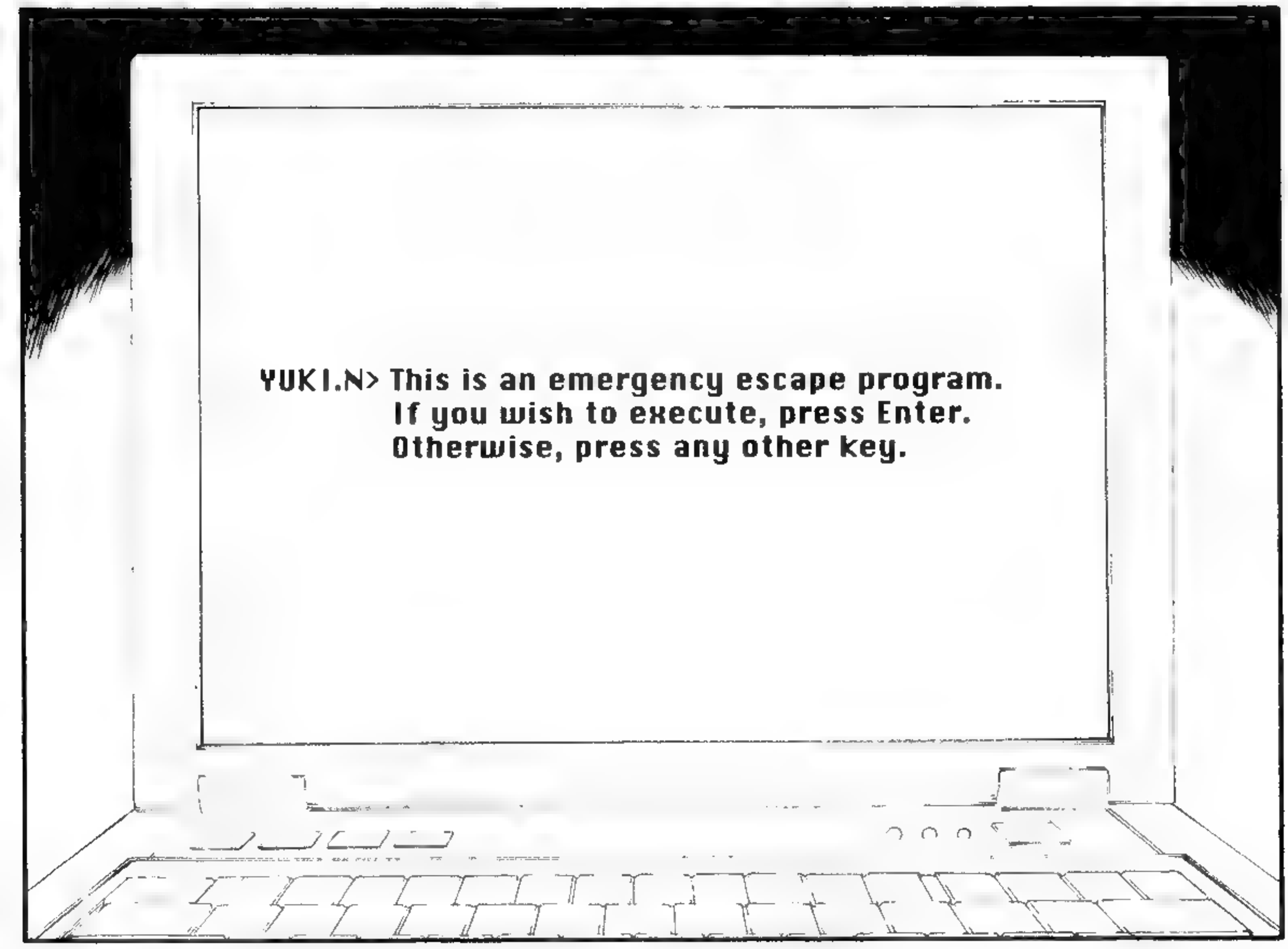
WHAT? SOME-THING WRONG?
TA (DASH)
MOVE OVER A SEC.
THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
COULD IT BE...?

YUKI.N> By the time you read this message,
I will no longer be myself.









YUKI.N> Once the program is executed, you will be given a chance to correct space-time.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
IS THERE SOME KIND OF TRICK INVOLVED?
YUKI.N> However, success is not guaranteed. Neither is your safe return.
...EMERGENCY ESCAPE...
DOKUN
DOKUN (BADMP)
This program can only be executed a single time.
DOKUN
If you have chosen not to run the program, it will delete itself without executing.
RE_
...THE PROGRAM ...
THIS.
DOKUN
HEY, EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

.....
WHAT'S WITH THE FUNNY LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
HEY, JOHN.
READY?_
I NEED TO ORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS.
SHUT UP FOR A SECOND.

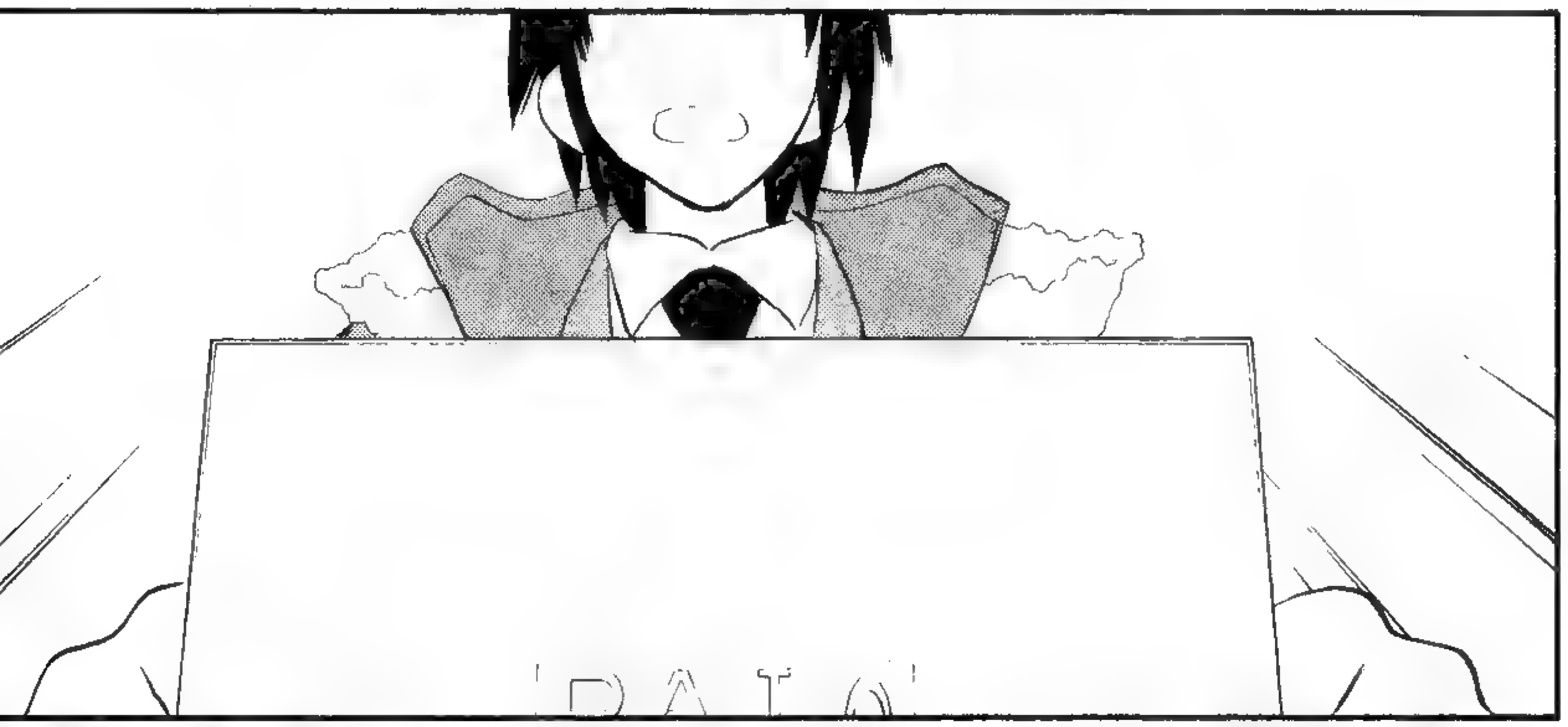
NAGATO HAS MADE HER INTENTIONS CLEAR.

NO POINT IN QUESTIONING HER PURPOSE.

TIME TO THINK.

HOW DO I FEEL?

DO I WANT TO ESCAPE THIS WORLD ...?



I'LL HAVE TO RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM.

SORRY, NAGATO.

AFTER ALL...

THERE ISN'T ANY NEED FOR ME TO JOIN THE LITERARY CLUB.

BUT...
...I WAS ALREADY A RESIDENT OF THIS ROOM TO BEGIN WITH, QUITE FRANKLY.

AFTER ALL...

...I'M SOS BRIGADE MEMBER NUMBER ONE.

?

NAGATO'S FACE IS HIDDEN BY HER HAIR, SO I CAN'T SEE HER EXPRESSION.

DOESN'T MATTER.

...I SEE.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, I'LL BE COMING BACK HERE.

DON'T WORRY, NAGATO.

OKAY, BRING IT ON.

READY, YOU ASK?

GUA (ROAR)
WAH!?
I WAS HIT BY AN INTENSE SPELL OF DIZZINESS.
I COULD HEAR THE DISTANT SOUND OF SOMEBODY SPEAKING...

KOIZUMI.

ASA-HINA-SAN.

...NAGATO.

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.

HARUHI.

I CAN'T HEAR ANY-THING.

SPINNING ROUND AND ROUND.

IT FEELS LIKE I'M DRIFTING ALONG.

EMERGENCY ESCAPE PROGRAM.

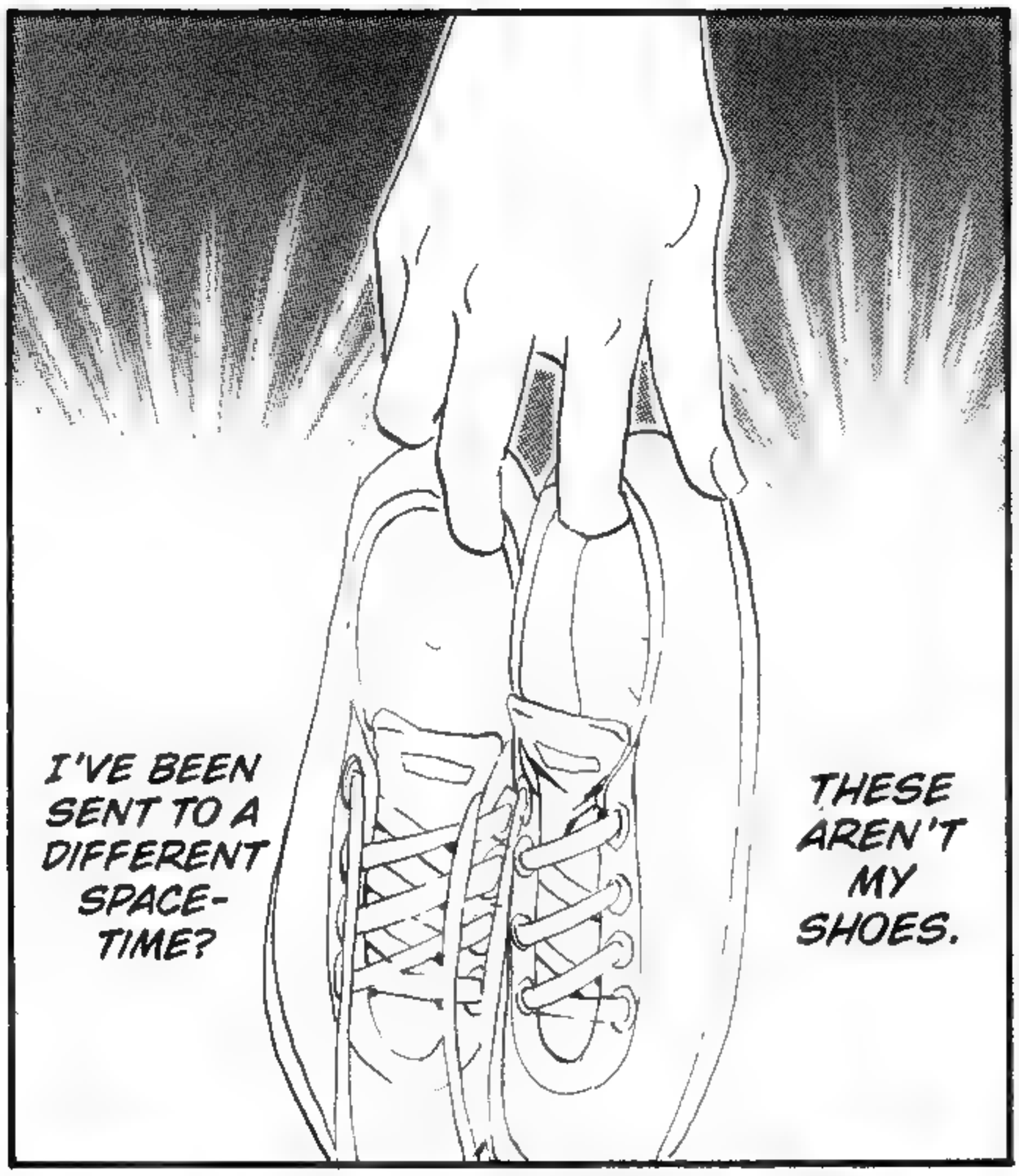
NO-BODY'S ... HERE?
WHY IS IT NIGHT ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?
...THE LITERARY CLUB-ROOM.

I HAVEN'T RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL WORLD.

DAMN ...
NONE OF THE SOS BRIGADE STUFF'S AROUND.

...IT'S SUMMER.
ANYWAY, I NEED TO GET OUTSIDE

IT'S HOT.
WHAT?
ALMOST LIKE...


I'VE BEEN SENT TO A DIFFERENT SPACE-TIME?
THESE AREN'T MY SHOES.

WHAT ...?

I FIND IT ODD HOW I'M NOT VERY SURPRISED.
OR HAVE I ALREADY GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO WEIRD STUFF HAPPENING?

A DIFFERENT WORLD WHERE THIS SHOE LOCKER BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
OR A DIFFERENT TIME.

GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

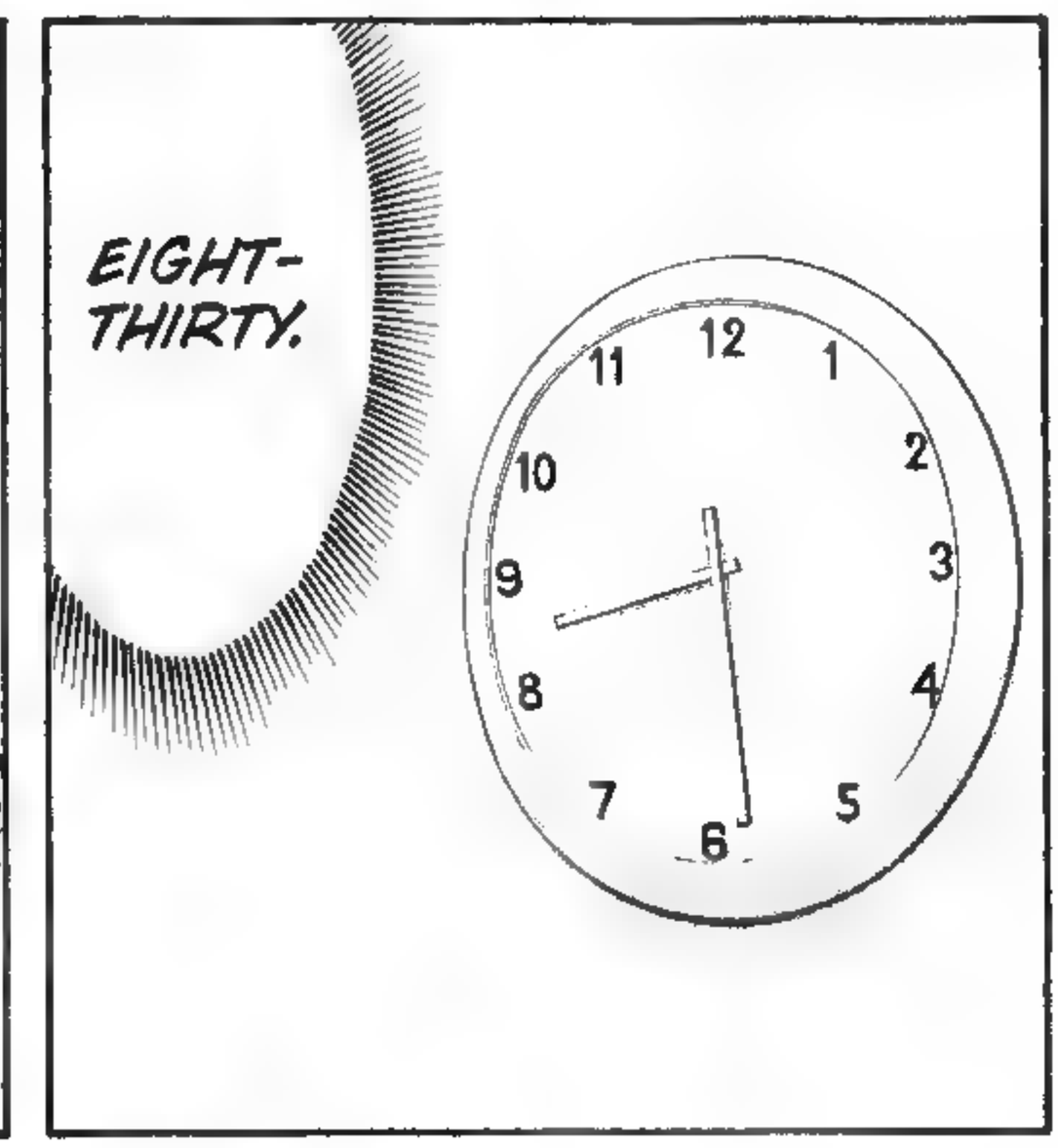
THERE'S A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IT BEING THE PAST OR THE FUTURE.

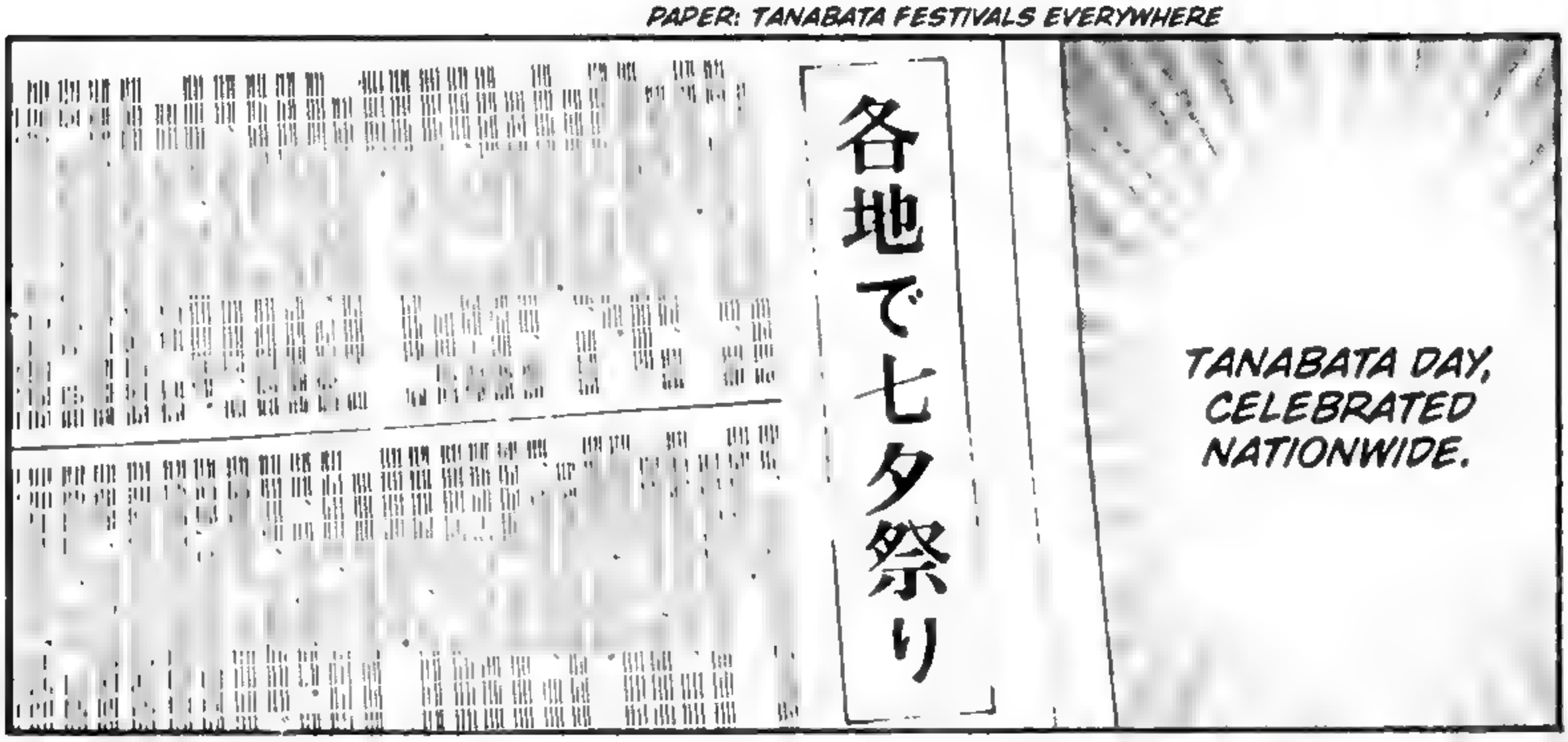
FIRST, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT MONTH, WHAT DAY, AND WHAT TIME IT IS.

BUT I CAN'T JUST GO UP TO SOMEONE AND ASK.

THERE SHOULD BE A CONVENIENCE STORE ON THE WAY.

SIGN: RACK UP POINTS WITH SUMMER ICE CREAM




各地で七夕祭り
TANABATA DAY, CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE.

MEMORIES BEGAN SURFACING IN A HAZE...
TANABATA "THREE YEARS AGO."
THE TANABATA "THIS YEAR" THAT WAS RATHER RHAPSODIC ...

I TRAVELED THREE YEARS BACK IN TIME WITH ASAHINA-SAN.
I WAS THEN REUNITED WITH THE ADULT VERSION OF ASAHINA-SAN...
...AND DIRECTED TO HEAD TO EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL AT NIGHT...
THAT WAS WHERE I RAN INTO A MIDDLE-SCHOOL VERSION OF HARUHI.

AFTER THAT...

...WE HAD NO EXIT PLAN AFTER LOSING THAT T.P.D.D. THING, WHICH WAS WHEN WE WERE SAVED BY...

I JOINED HARUHI IN DRAWING A MESSAGE TO OUTER SPACE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

WE WERE PUT TO SLEEP FOR THREE YEARS AND THUS ABLE TO RETURN TO OUR ORIGINAL TIME...

...NAGATO, AS ALWAYS.

WHICH MEANS THAT...

WAIT.

I FINALLY REACHED A CONCLUSION.

A SIMPLE AND CLEAR CONCLUSION ...

EAST MIDDLE.

I WENT THROUGH THE VARIOUS FACTORS IN MY MIND.

THREE YEARS AGO.

TANABATA.

KOKI (CRACK)

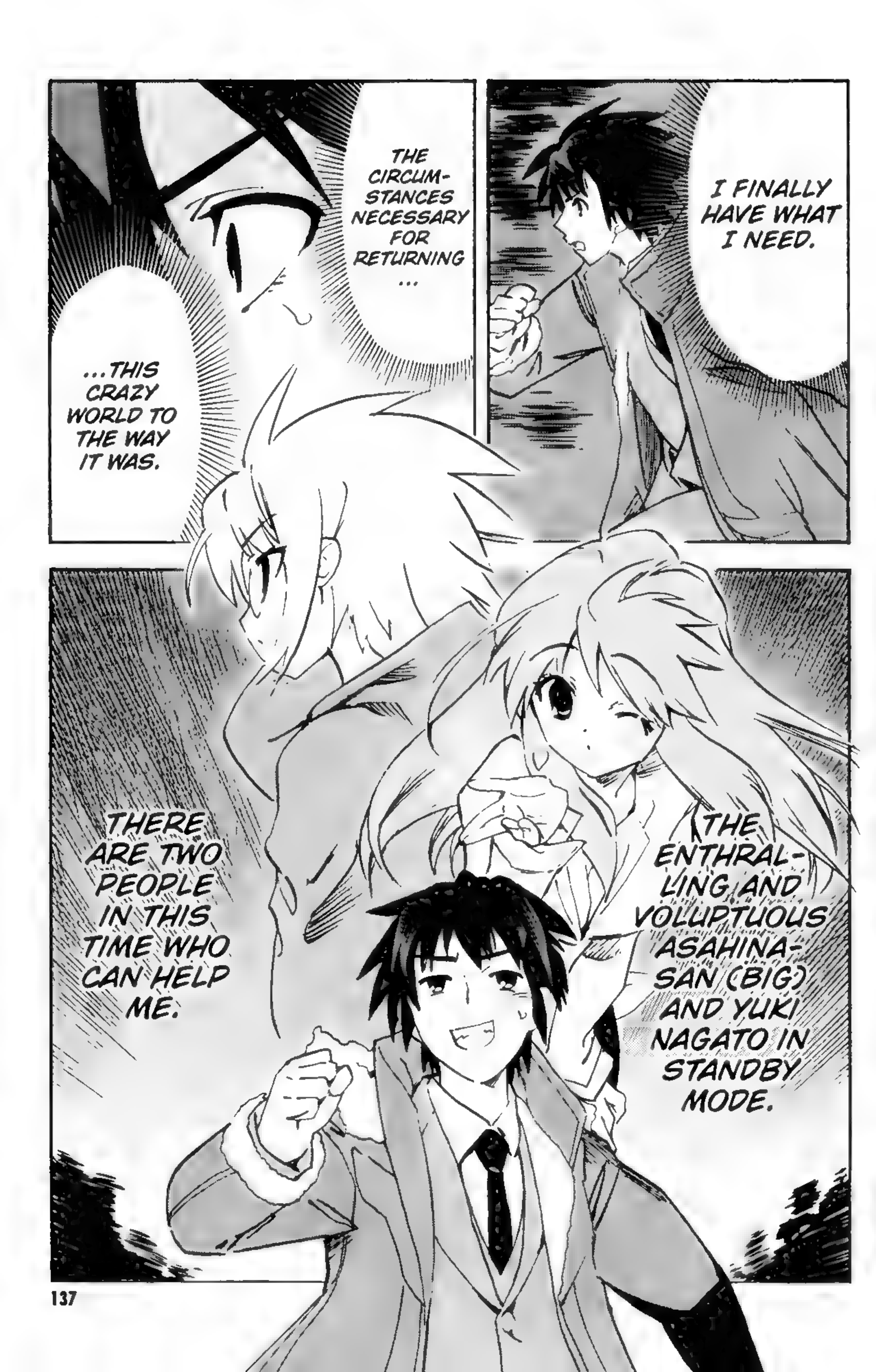
...

DAMN.

I'M SHAKING WITH EXCITEMENT.

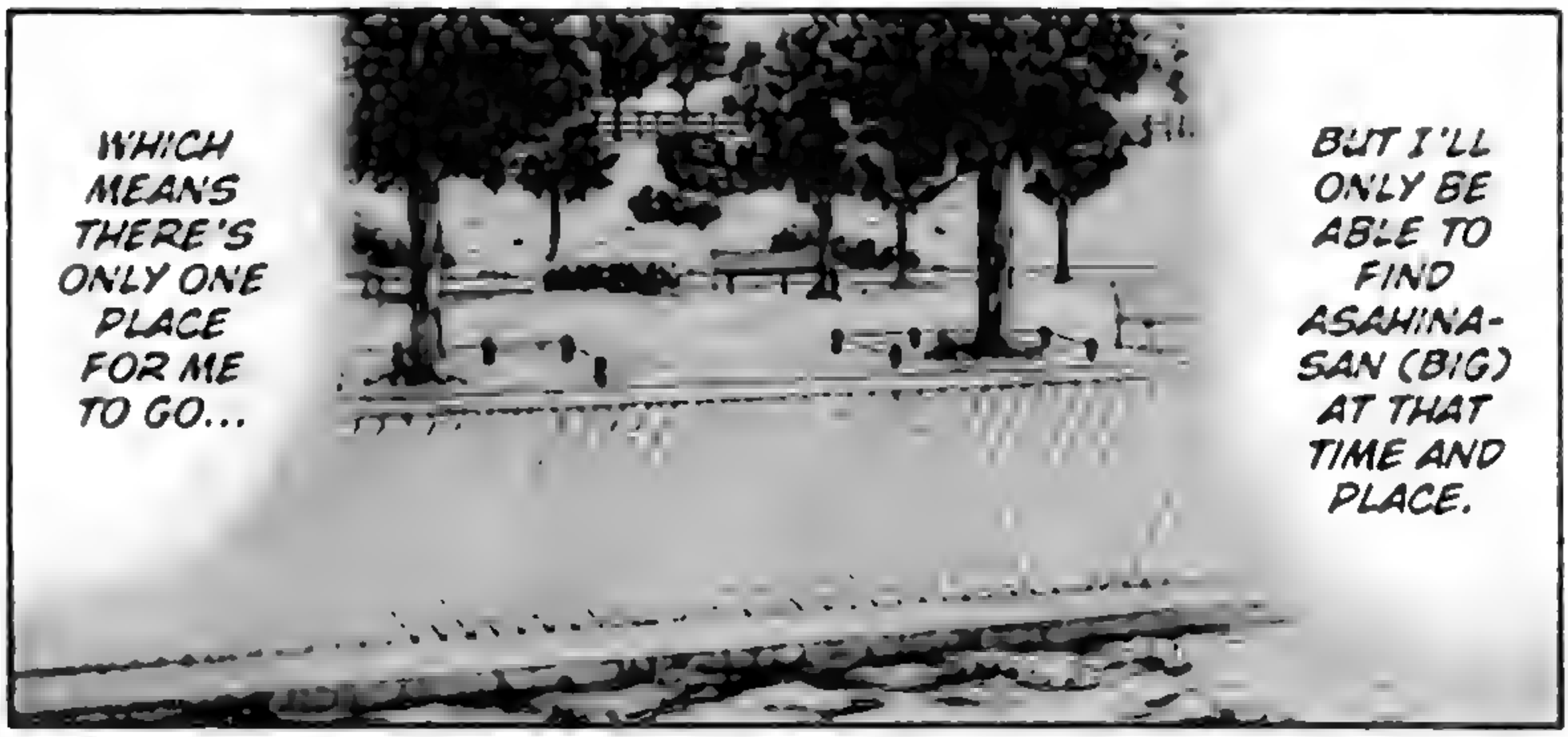
...スッ

SUKKU (STAGGER)


THE CIRCUM-STANCES NECESSARY FOR RETURNING ...
...THIS CRAZY WORLD TO THE WAY IT WAS.
I FINALLY HAVE WHAT I NEED.
THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE IN THIS TIME WHO CAN HELP ME.
THE ENTHRAL-LING AND VOLUPTUOUS ASAHINA-SAN (BIG) AND YUKI NAGATO IN STANDBY MODE.

I CONSIDERED MY DESTINATION AS I RAN.
I HAD TO MEET ONE OF THOSE TWO, OR MAYBE BOTH.
I REMEMBER ASAHINA-SAN TELLING ME THAT IT WAS AROUND 9 P.M.
I HAD WOKEN UP ON A BENCH IN THE PARK.

I CAN GO FIND NAGATO IN HER APARTMENT WHENEVER I WANT.


WHICH MEANS THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE FOR ME TO GO...
BUT I'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO FIND ASAHINA-SAN (BIG) AT THAT TIME AND PLACE.

I'M SURE OF IT.
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE ME.

I'LL WALK ALONG THE FENCE AT THE PARK AND SEARCH ...
I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE SEEN.

IT'S ALMOST 9 P.M.

...STILL, THIS IS PRETTY...
THAT'S IT, HUH?

BAN
(BAM)

HOW CAN I DESCRIBE THIS SCENE SO DEVOID OF ANY EMOTION OR IMPACT?
ASAHINA-SAN AND THE ME FROM THE PAST ARE RIGHT THERE.

ALMOST LIKE WATCHING MYSELF IN A MOVIE...

...WHATEVER THE CASE, THERE IS ONE THING I CAN SAY.

THOUGH IT'S INFURIATING THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER IT...

I MUST BE HAVING ONE HECK OF A DREAM.

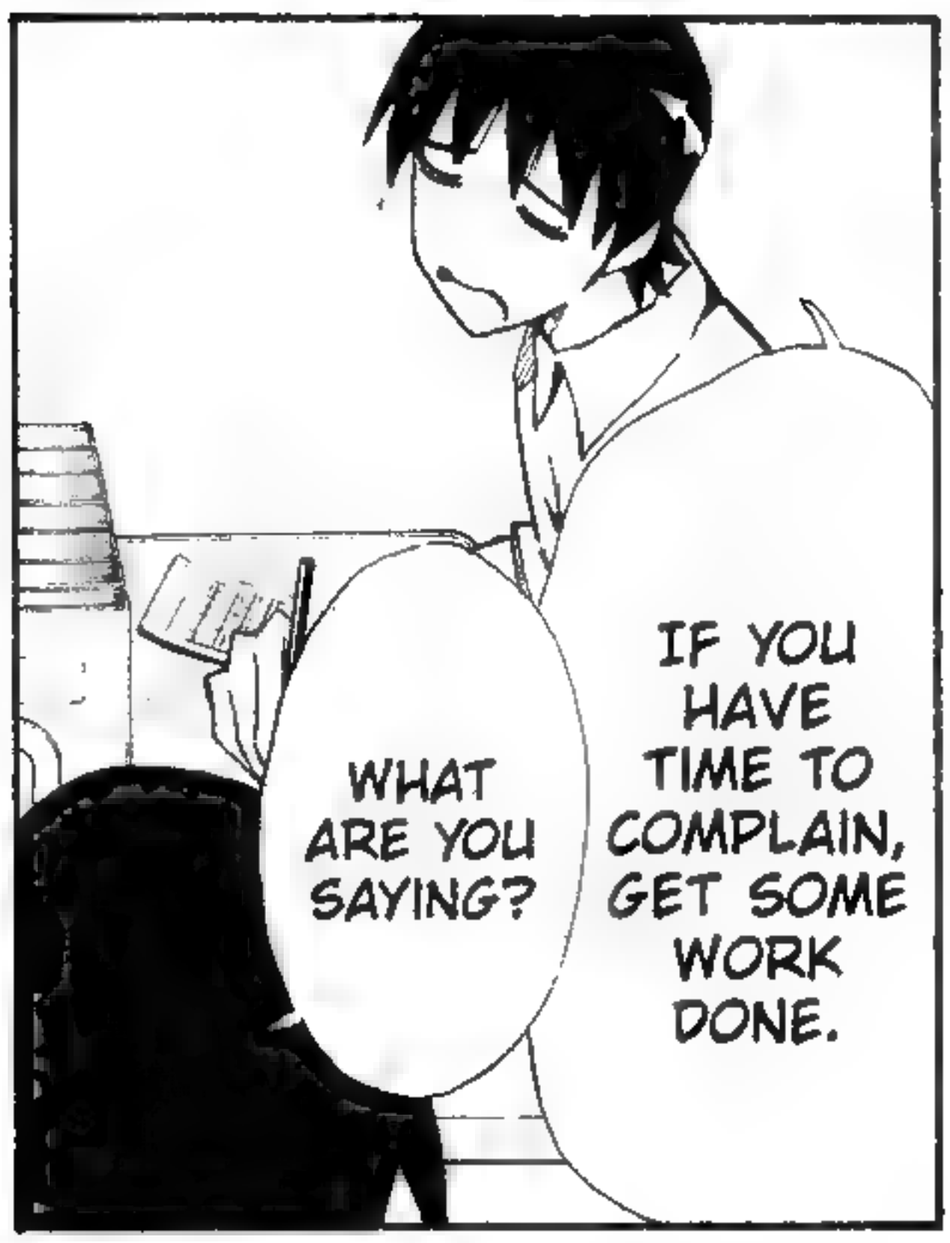
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VII : END

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

Parallel Sidestory I: A Sudden Cinderella Story

...A NEW SONG.
WAAAAAA (CHEER)
...YUKI NAGATO.
WHO ARE YOU?

IT ALL STARTED A YEAR AGO...



JUST TO BE CLEAR, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ORDINARY HUMANS.
券
THE "S03 STUDIO" TALENT AGENCY.
YOUR TYPICAL STRUGGLING COMPANY THAT WAS IN A BAD SPELL.
BAA (BAM)
"S03 STUDIO" TALENT AGENCY PRESIDENT: HARUHI SUZUMIYA
I SEEK A BIG STAR THAT WILL ROCK HUMANITY!

MENIAL TASKS: KYON

GOOD GRIEF. I WAS RECRUITED INTO THIS COMPANY AGAINST MY WILL...

...AND IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD WITH NO BRIGHT FUTURE IN SIGHT...

STUDIO IDOL: MIKURU ASAHINA

I'M SO SORRY... IT'S BECAUSE I'M SO UN-POPU-LAR.

VICE-PRESI-DENT: KOIZUMI

IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND A POTENTIAL STAR.

DOES SHE WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD OR BLOW IT UP?

IT ISN'T ASAHINA-SAN'S FAULT...

BY THE WAY, SO3 STUDIO STANDS FOR THE "SAVE THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT WITH FUN BY BLOWING UP THE EARTH 3 TIMES STUDIO."

FOUND HER!!

PRESI-DENT?

HOWEVER, AT THIS RATE...

HIT ME LIKE LIGHT-NING!

SHE'S OOZING TALENT!

H-HEY, HARUHI!?

TA (DASH)

JOIN OUR STUDIO AS AN IDOL!

YOU'RE CAPABLE OF BECOMING A BIG STAR!

HOLD ON!!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SCOUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

AH... THERE SHE GOES AGAIN ...

FUWA (FLIT)

...UNDER-STOOD.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY!

A BOND FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE!

WONDER-FUL! IT MUST BE FATE.

HUH?

SERIOUSLY?

THAT'S THE NAME TO USE!

I CAN *FEEL* IT!!

STARTING TODAY, YOU'LL BE USING THE STAGE NAME *YUKI NAGATO.*

YUKI NAGATO!!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

THERE'S NO NEED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS GIRL.

...IT MUST SOUND LIKE A JOKE.

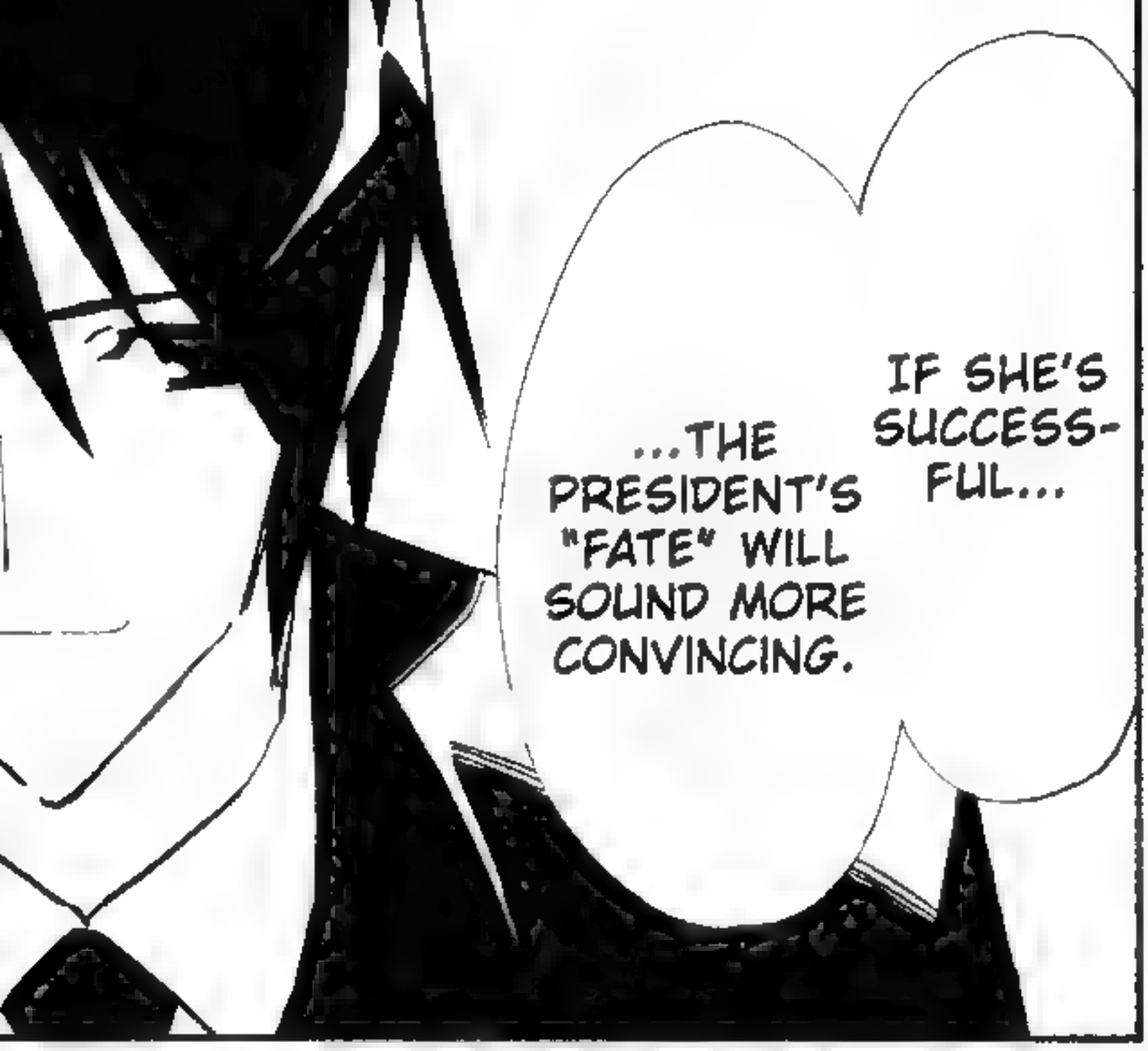
NAGATO ...?

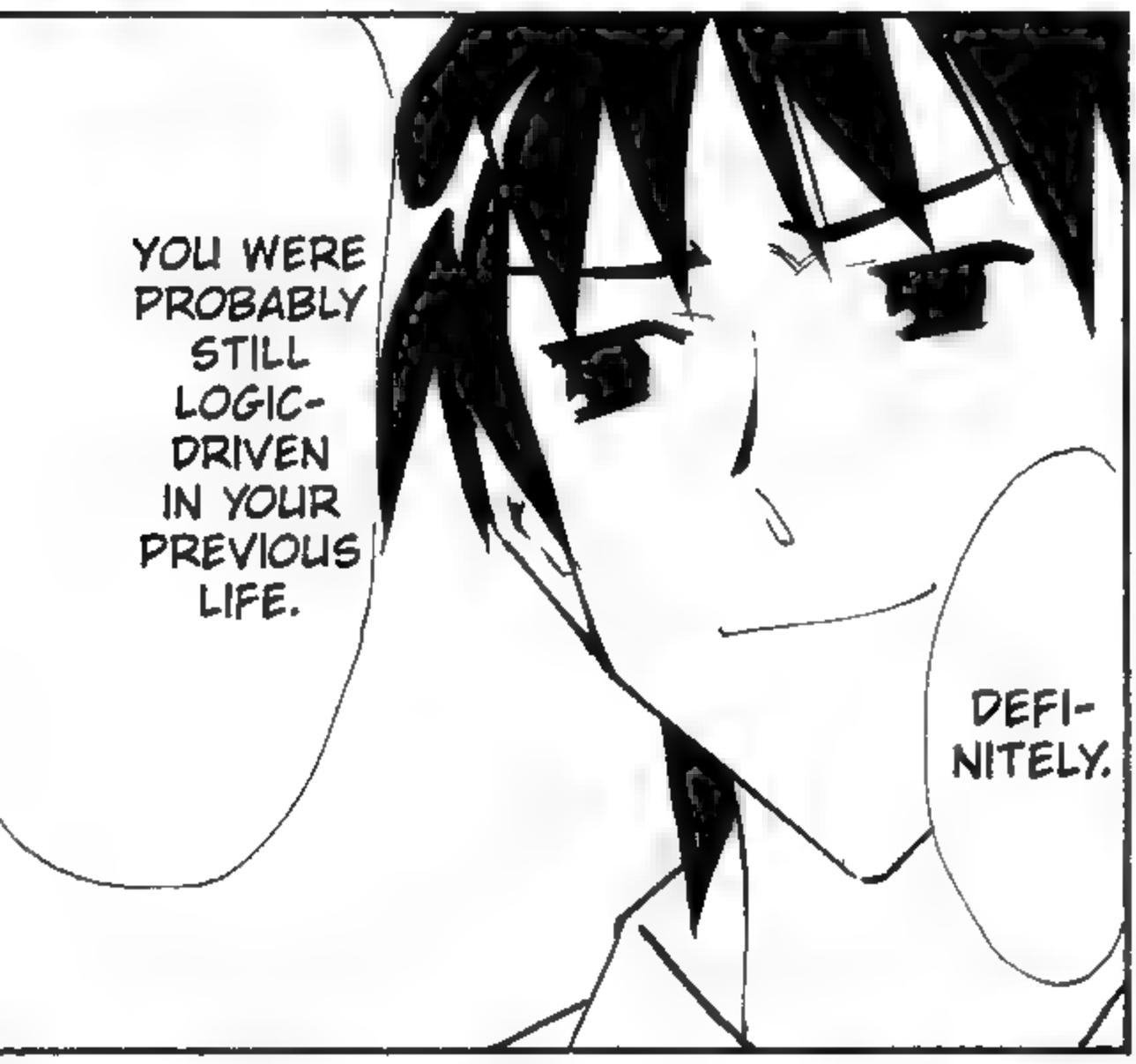
AND JUST LIKE THAT, YUKI NAGATO THE IDOL WAS OFF AND RUNNING

BUT THIS WAS HOW WE MET.

長門有希
YUKI NAGATO

SIGN: THIS LOW-TENSION GIRL ARRIVES TO SIGNAL A NEW WAVE! NO REACTION GIRL


...THE PRESIDENT'S "FATE" WILL SOUND MORE CONVINCING.
IF SHE'S SUCCESS-FUL...


YOU WERE PROBABLY STILL LOGIC-DRIVEN IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE.
DEFI-NITELY.

REACTION
HEH HEH... THIS IS UNPREC-EDENTED.
A TIGHT-LIPPED, STONE-FACED, DOLL-LIKE IDOL.
新時代の
低体温系
門
希

長門有希
HMM... REALLY NOW...
I WAS SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT ESCAPING INTO THE NIGHT...
I'M NOT A ROMANTIC THE WAY THE OTHERS ARE.

WAAAAAAA
(CHEEEEER)
NO REACT
...WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT.
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T BECOME A GLOBAL HIT...

TWO TV SHOOTS STARTING AT ONE P.M.

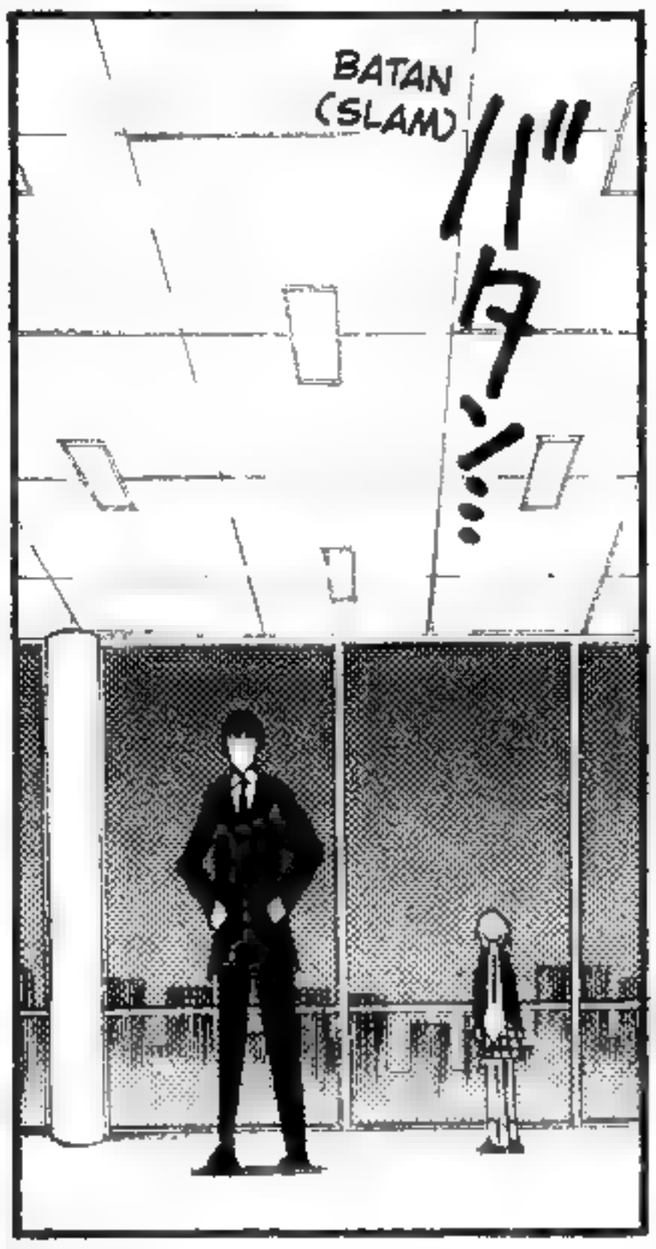
INTERVIEWS WITH MAGAZINES FROM NEW YORK AND PARIS AFTER THAT.

HA WAH WAH!

THE U.S. PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE A MEETING ...

WONDERFUL, YUKI.

YOU ARE TRULY A BIG STAR!!



...BUT THERE'S ONE THING.
THE GREATEST QUESTION IN THE WORLD STILL REMAINS.
IT'S JUST LIKE HARUHI SAID.
YOU'RE A BIG STAR NOW...
NAGATO SAVE THE WORLD
NAGATO SAVE THE WORLD
NOBODY KNOWS YOUR REAL NAME.
NOBODY KNOWS WHO YOU REALLY ARE...
YUKI NAGATO.
WHO ARE YOU!?

I HAVE TAKEN THE OPTION OF OBSERVING A PARALLEL WORLD ON AN IDENTICAL TIME AXIS.

THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SUBORDINATE STRATUM.

I AM NOT A STAR.

I MERELY APPEAR TO STAND OUT AS A BRILLIANT ENTITY.

HOLD ON. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NAGATO SAVE THE WORL

THIS STRATUM WAS CONSIDERED A LOW PRIORITY AND THUS IGNORED.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION HAS REACHED A LEVEL THAT CAN NO LONGER BE NEGLECTED.

FORGIVE MY ARBI-TRARY ACTIONS.

YUKI NAGATO THE IDOL WILL RETIRE.

NOW WE HAVE TO START OVER AS A POOR STUDIO.

KO (TAK)

THAT YUKI... I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO VANISH ON US.

AND WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHO SHE WAS...

PAPER: NO INTENTION OF COMING BACK. RUMORS OF MARRIAGE...

AND WE WOULD STILL BE FOLLOWING HARUHI'S LEAD.

THERE, FIVE PEOPLE RESEMBLING HARUHI, ME, AND THE REST OF US WOULD BE GATHERED.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MOPE.

GEEZ!

YEAH!!

LET'S FIND THE STAR OF TOMORROW!!

I'LL LEAVE THE NAGGING QUESTION ON MY MIND TO THE ME IN THAT PLACE.

"...NAGATO, DID YOU HAVE FUN?"

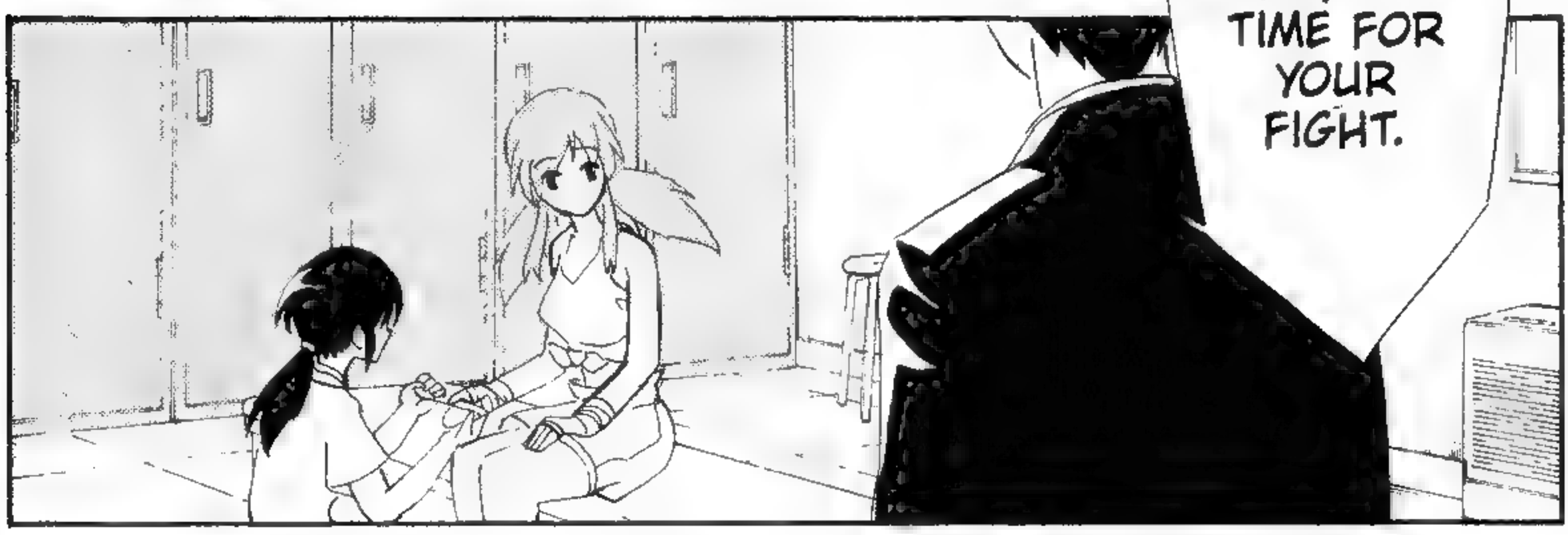
PARALLEL SIDESTORY I : END

KU

KU

KU (TUG)

MIKURU ASAHINA-SAN, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR FIGHT.



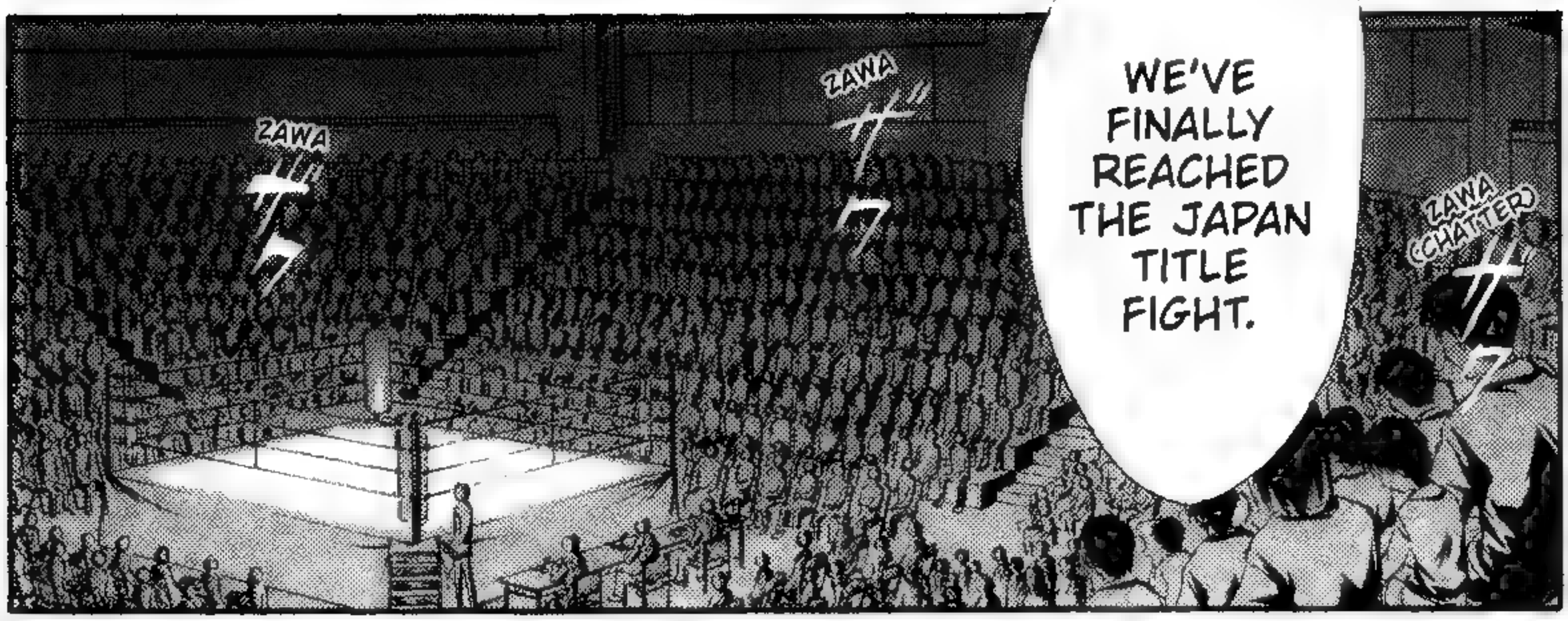
◎ Parallel Sidestory II:
Mikurion Dollar Baby
SOS

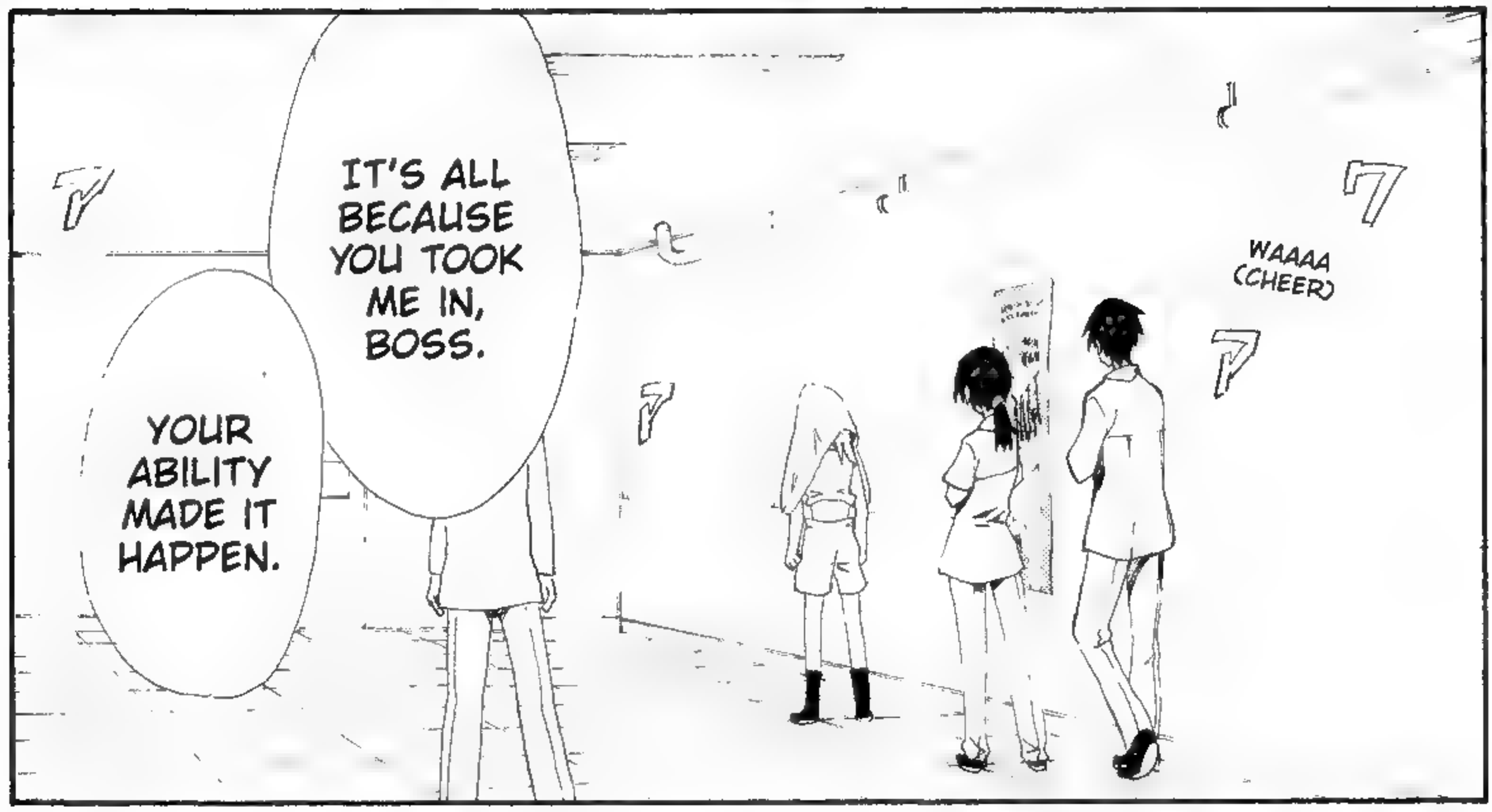
AH...

DREAM?
NO WAY... NOT THAT DREAM AGAIN ...

ARE YOU AWAKE?

WHERE I'M STRONG IN WILL AND BODY...
A DREAM ABOUT BEING A BOXER.
YES... I KEEP HAVING THE SAME DREAM LATELY.


ZAWA
ZAWA
WE'VE FINALLY REACHED THE JAPAN TITLE FIGHT.
ZAWA (CHATTER)


IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU TOOK ME IN, BOSS.
YOUR ABILITY MADE IT HAPPEN.
WAAAA (CHEER)

BOSS... DON'T SAY THAT.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, MIKURU-CHAN.
YOU'VE ALLOWED ME TO LIVE MY DREAM.
SOS

UM...

...I-I WANT TO STAY WITH THE SOS GYM...

BAN (BAM)

JOIN US IN CONQUERING THE WORLD.

MIKURU ASAHINA, YOU AREN'T MEANT TO BE RESTRAINED IN SUCH A SMALL GYM.

I'M EVEN WILLING TO HELP FUND THIS FACILITY.

WE CAN TRAIN YOU MORE EFFECTIVELY IN OUR GYM.

YOUR TALENT IS WASTED HERE.

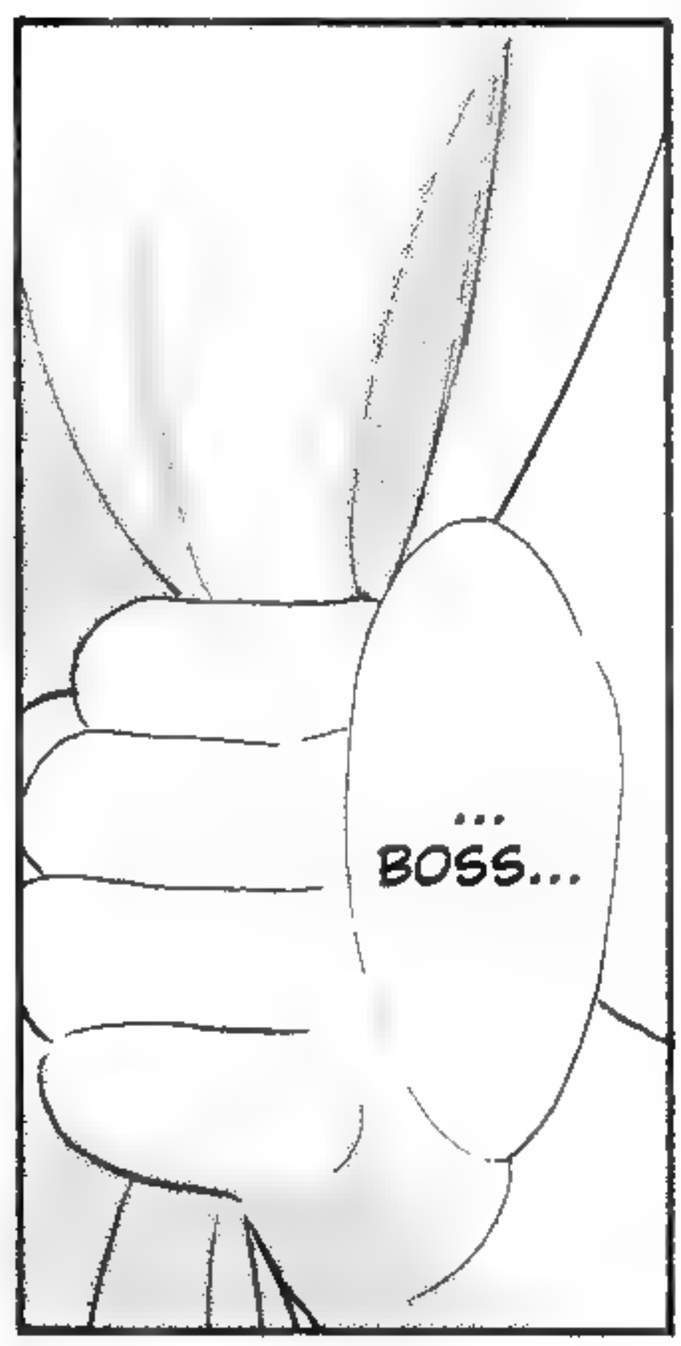
SOS

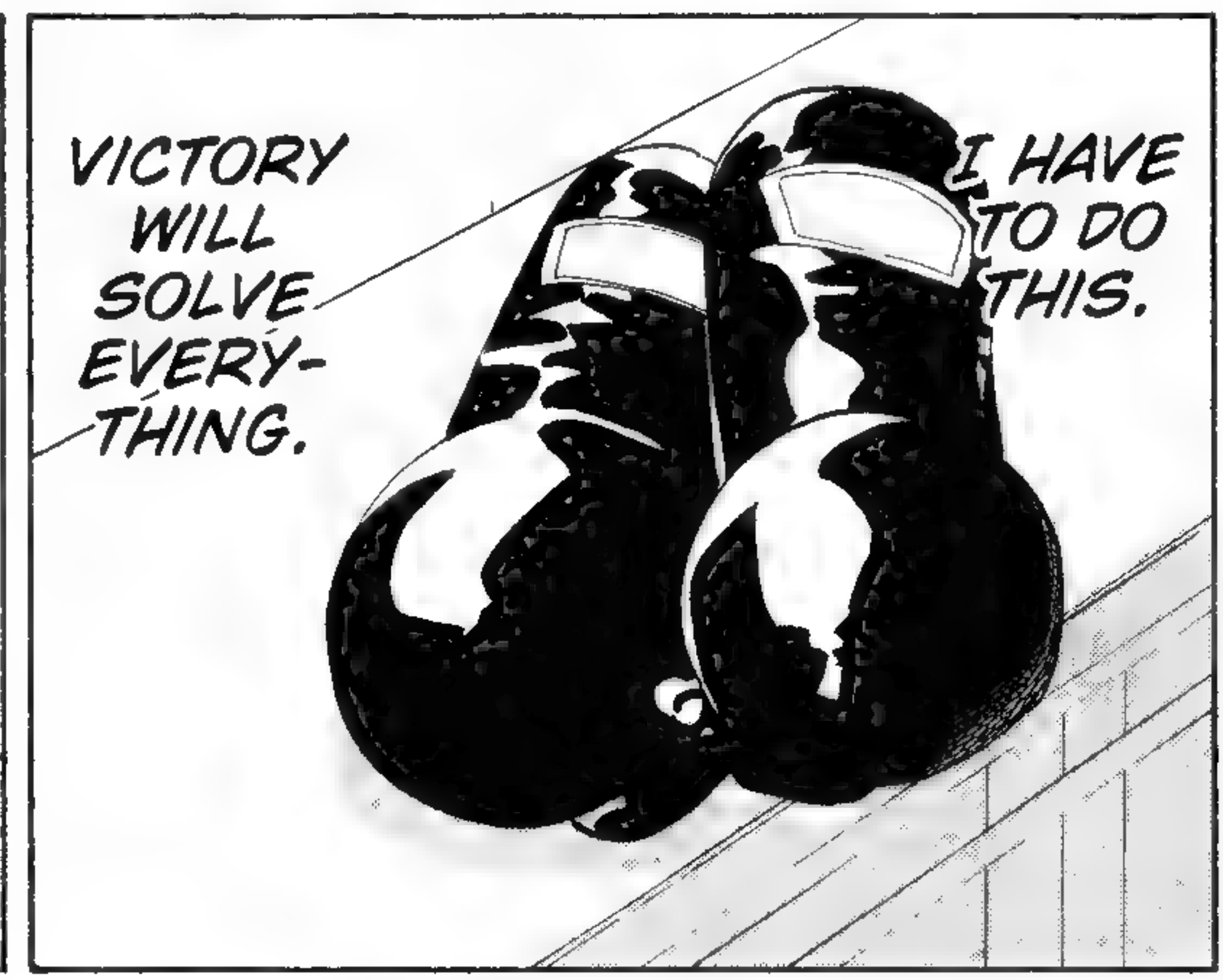
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

YES, WHY NOT MOVE AFTER WINNING THE TITLE MATCH...

REPAY THE TRAINER WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM...
THIS IS HOW I CAN REPAY HER KINDNESS.

I HAVE TO WIN... WIN AND SWITCH GYMS.
AND THEN THE SOS GYM WILL RECEIVE FUNDING...


...
BOSS...

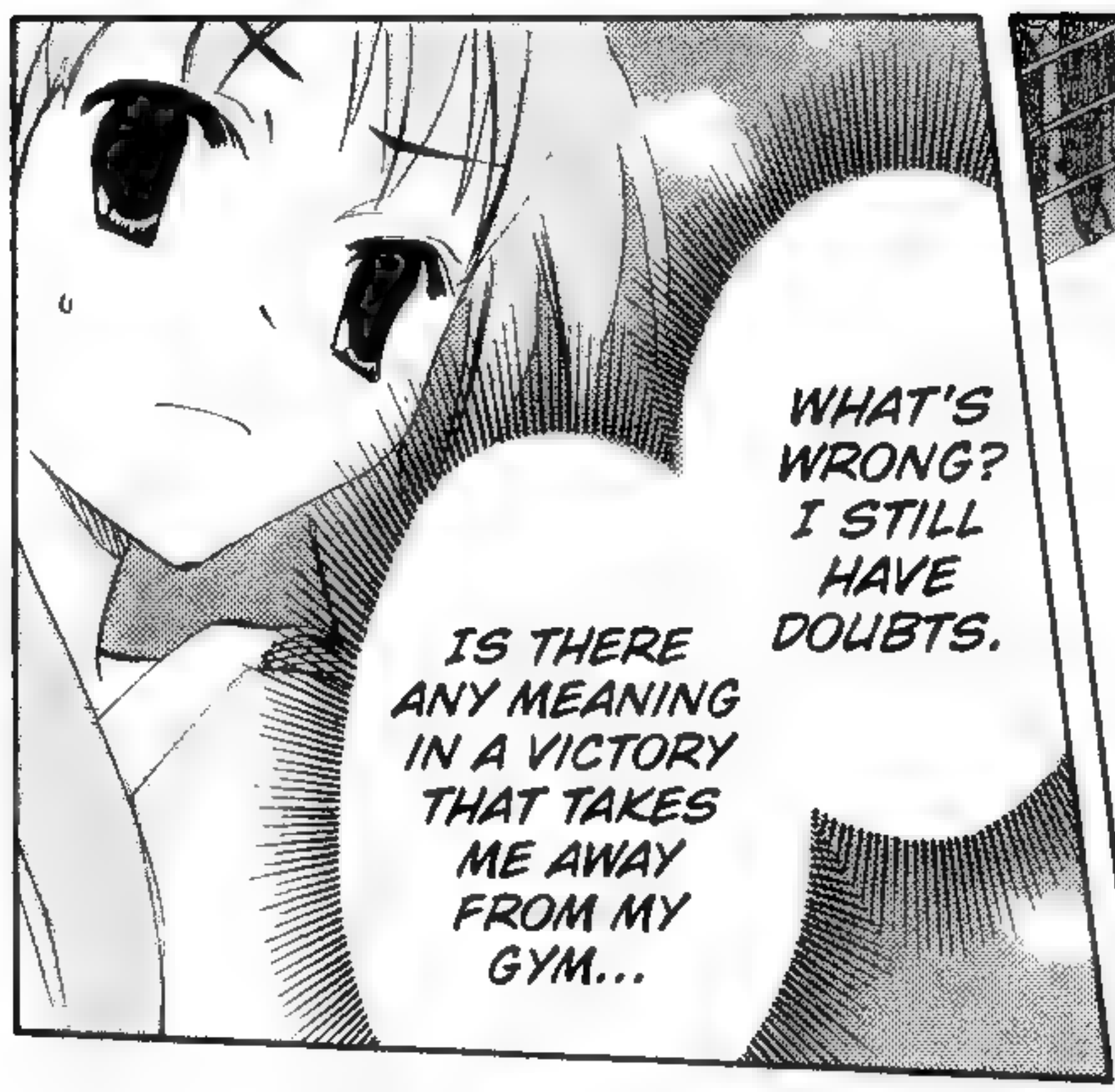

VICTORY WILL SOLVE EVERY-THING.
I HAVE TO DO THIS.

MIKURU-CHAN.

WHERE WE WERE JUST STUDENTS ...

I HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN YESTER-DAY.

SIGN: BELIEF AND PASSION INTERTWINED... ULTIMATE CHALLENGER MIKURU ASAHINA, BOXING TITLE MATCH, SUPREME CHAMPION YUKI NAGATO


WHAT'S WRONG? I STILL HAVE DOUBTS.
IS THERE ANY MEANING IN A VICTORY THAT TAKES ME AWAY FROM MY GYM...

KAAAAAN (CLAAAAANG)

DIDN'T I WANT TO CLIMB IT WITH MY TRAINER?
WAAAAA (CHEER)
BOXING... AN ICY SUMMIT.

SUPAN (SMACK)

GA
GA
SHOOT! THE CHAMPION YUKI NAGATO.
GA (WHACK)
I CAN'T BEAT HER WHILE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE!
Asahina's in trouble!
Is it impossible to unseat the champ!?
GA
GA
BOSS ...!
WAAA
MIKURU-CHAN.
YOU SAID YOU HAD A DREAM...

...FORMED A BIZARRE GROUP AND LIVED A WONDERFUL SCHOOL LIFE...

...WHERE YOU AND I AND SOME OTHER PEOPLE...

BUT...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT DREAMS AND REALITY COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER.

WHAT AN ODD DREAM. SO DIFFERENT FROM REALITY.

BOSS... NO MORE!

PLEASE THROW IN THE TOWEL!

SOS

GIRIRI (GRITO)

WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE!?

I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT MIKURU-CHAN'S DREAM WAS A DIFFERENT REALITY...

WE WERE STILL A TEAM, EVEN IN THAT DIFFERENT WORLD!

KNOCK HER OUT ALREADY!

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HOLD YOURSELF BACK!!

GUN (CLENCH)

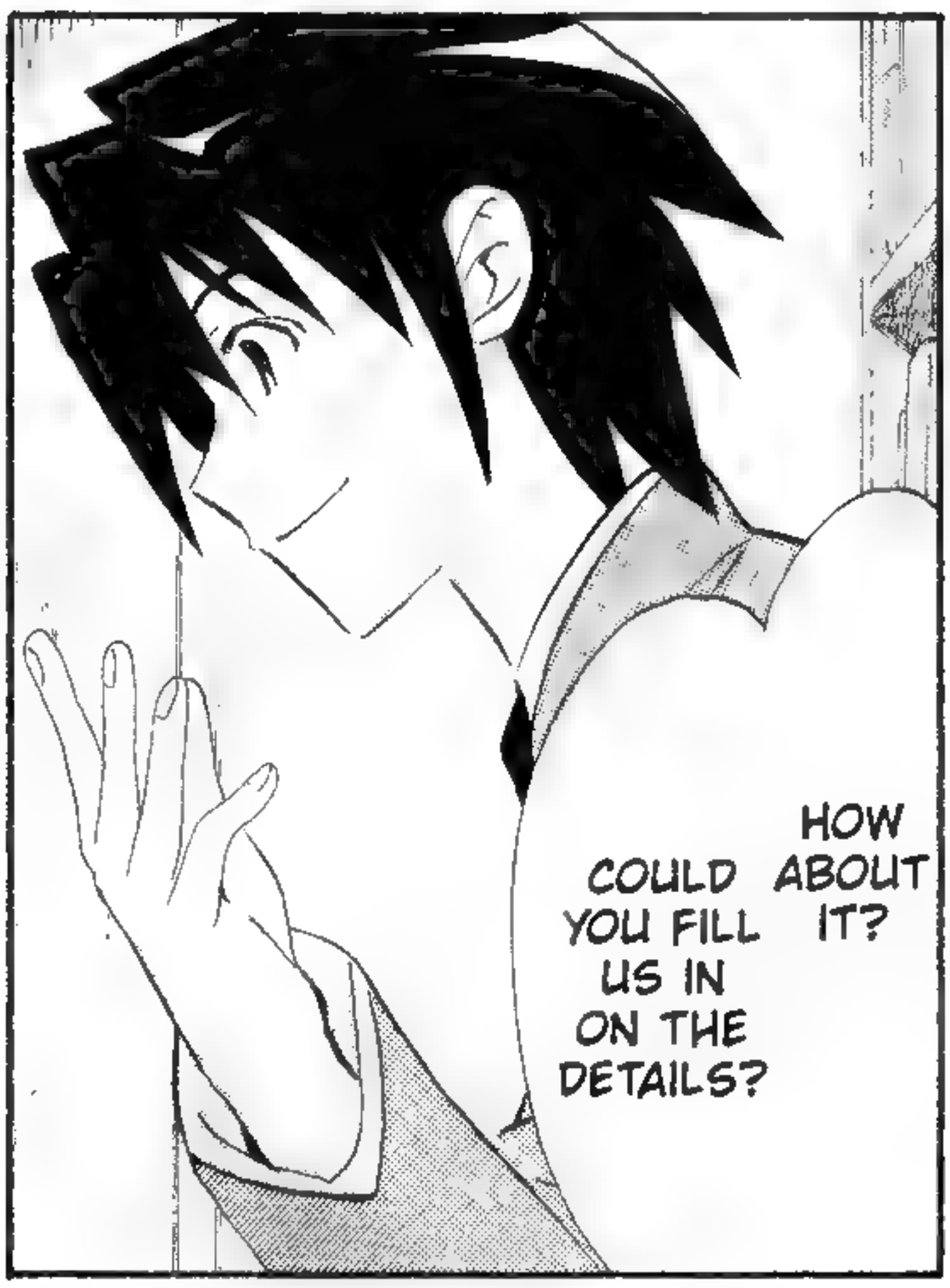
THIS VICTORY IS A TRIFLE...

...WHEN COMPARED TO THAT MIRACLE!!

GA
(SMACK)
HUH!?
AH...

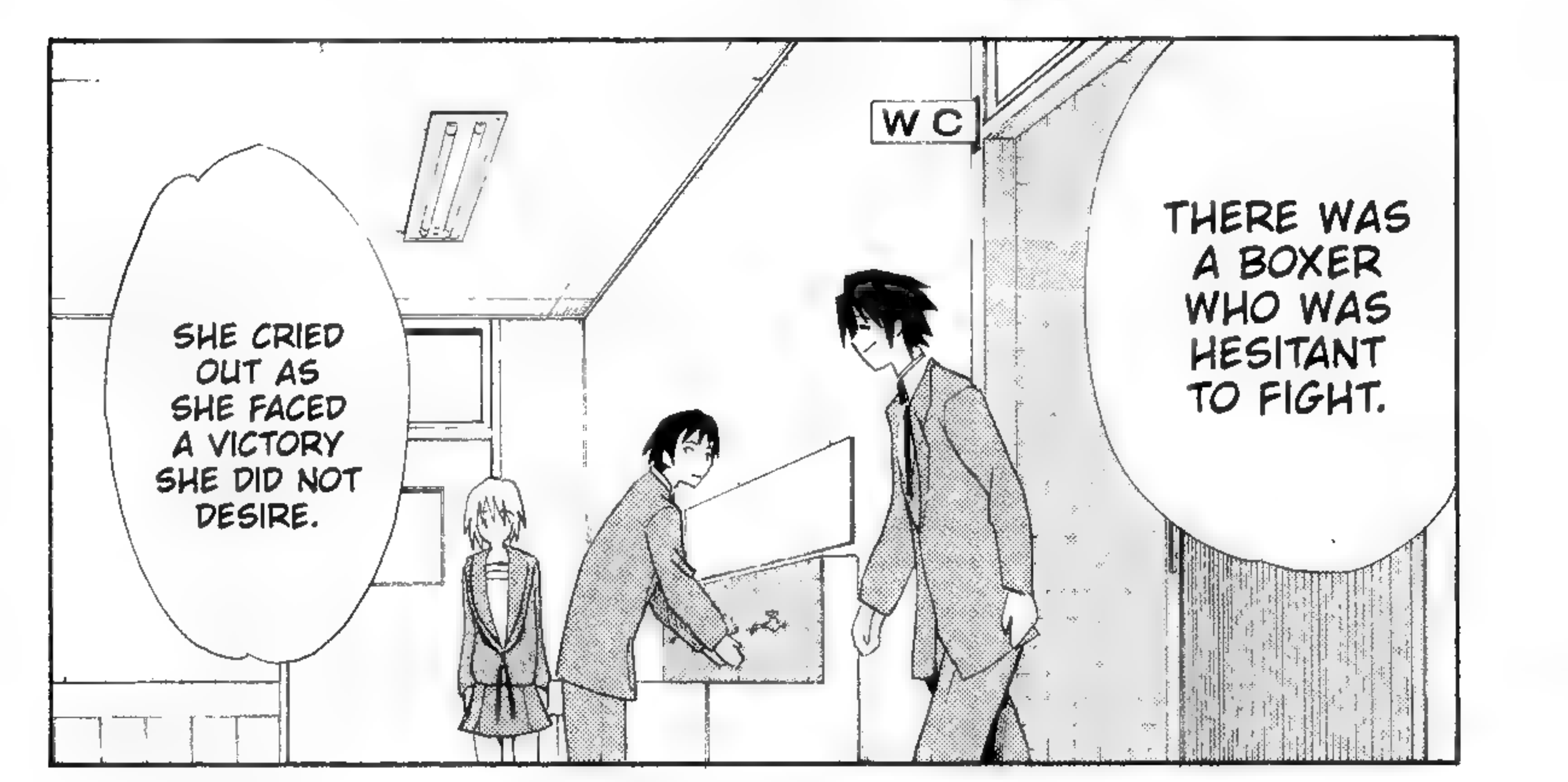
I DON'T KNOW.
IT FELT SO REAL...
I WOKE UP RIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH ENDED.

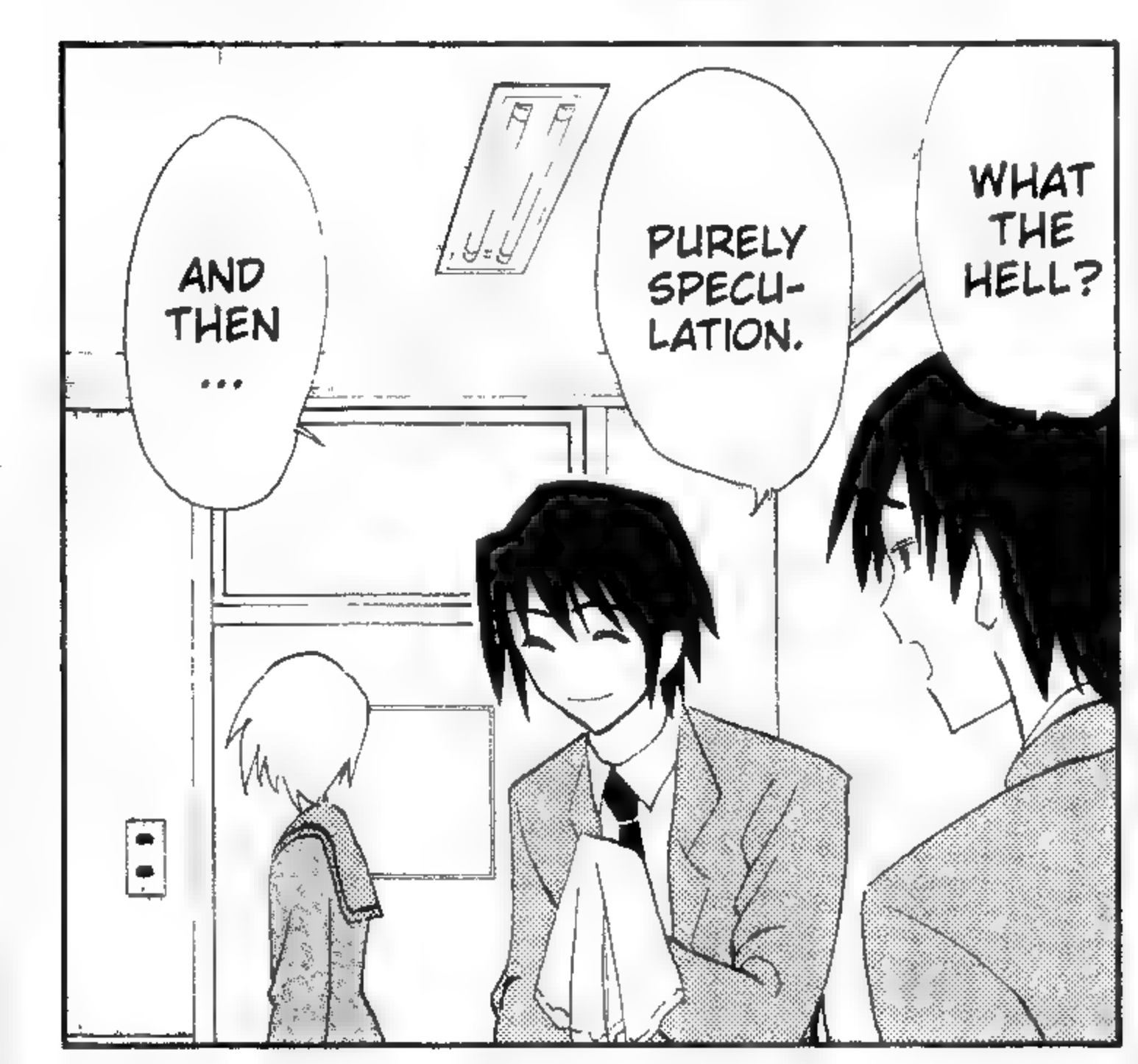
WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR BOXER DREAM?
ARE YOU AWAKE?

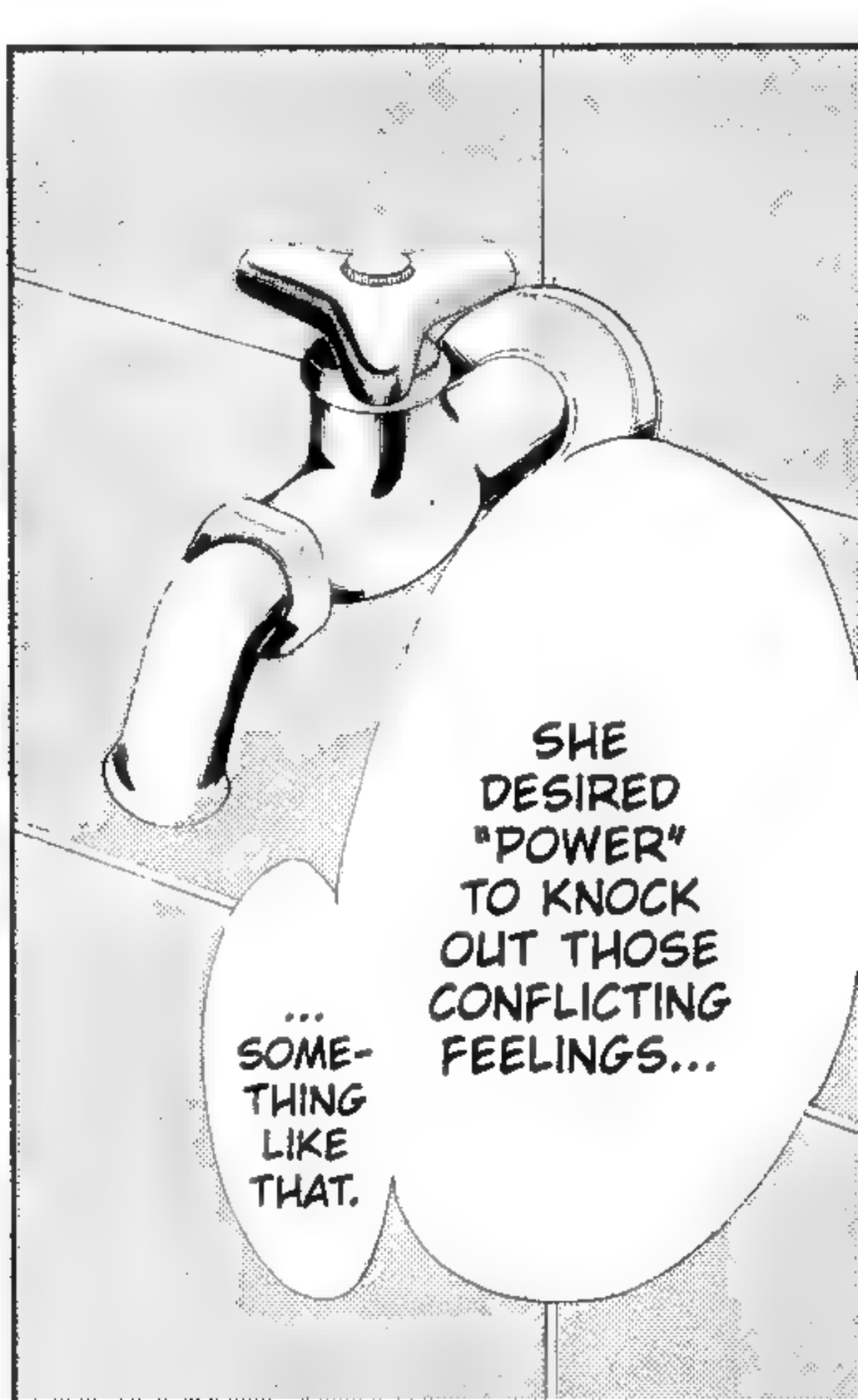

COULD YOU FILL US IN ON THE DETAILS?
HOW ABOUT IT?

HA HA HA ...
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT GOES.

WC
FOR INSTANCE, HOW WOULD THIS STORY SOUND?


W C
SHE CRIED OUT AS SHE FACED A VICTORY SHE DID NOT DESIRE.
THERE WAS A BOXER WHO WAS HESITANT TO FIGHT.


AND THEN ...
PURELY SPECU-LATION.
WHAT THE HELL?


SHE DESIRED "POWER" TO KNOCK OUT THOSE CONFLICTING FEELINGS...
... SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

...THAT CRY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR INTERVENTION *FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.*

SHE MUST HAVE HAD GOD ON HER SIDE ...

THAT LAST MOMENT... THE WAY THE CHAMPION MOVED.

TA (DASH)

WHY, MIKURU-CHAN?

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WIN.

I DON'T KNOW...

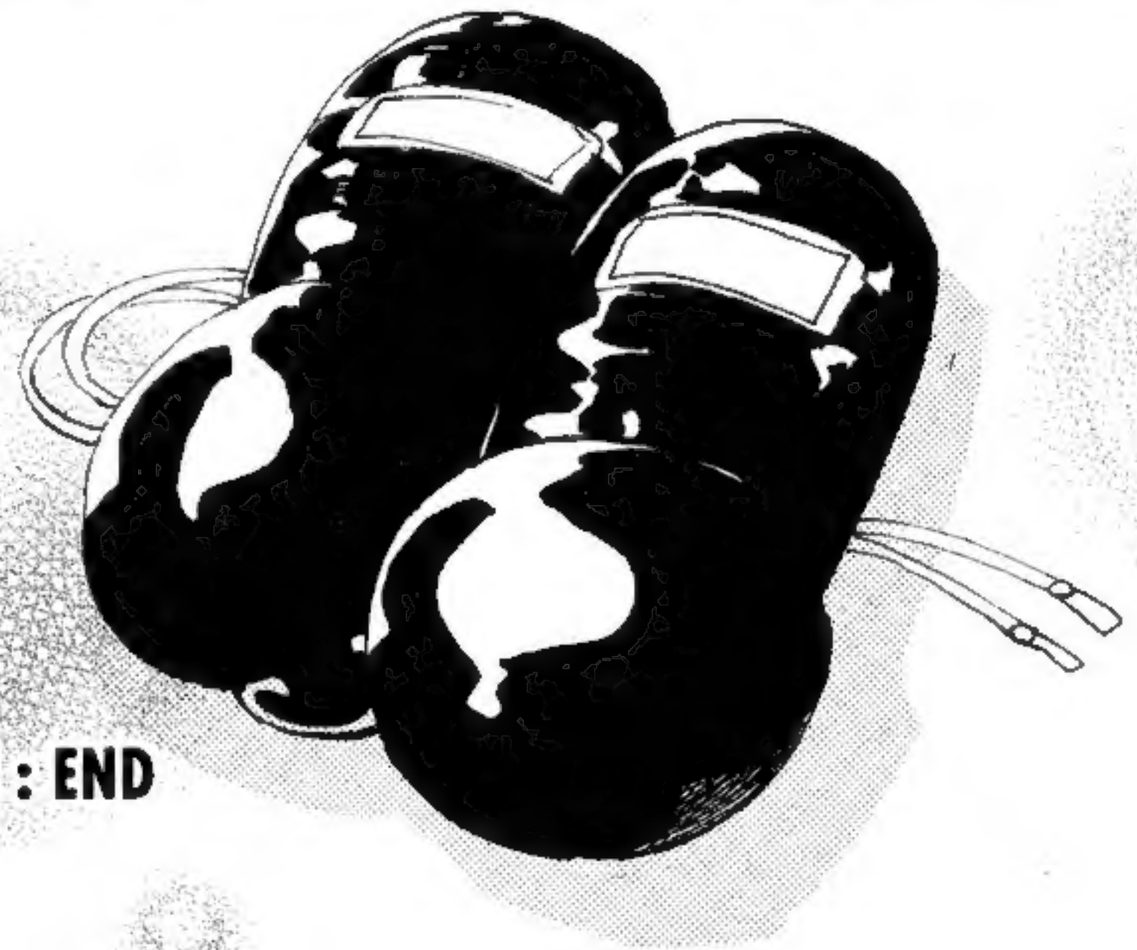
OWNER...

I WILL STILL NEED YOUR HELP.

TAKE THE WORLD ...

THE TWO OF US CAN SURELY...

...MAKE A MIRACLE HAPPEN.



IN THAT CASE, I MUST THANK THAT GOD.

THE GODDESS WHO GRANTED A DEFEAT TO STRENGTHEN OUR BOND...

PARALLEL SIDESTORY II : END

TO BE CONTINUED

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

8

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